

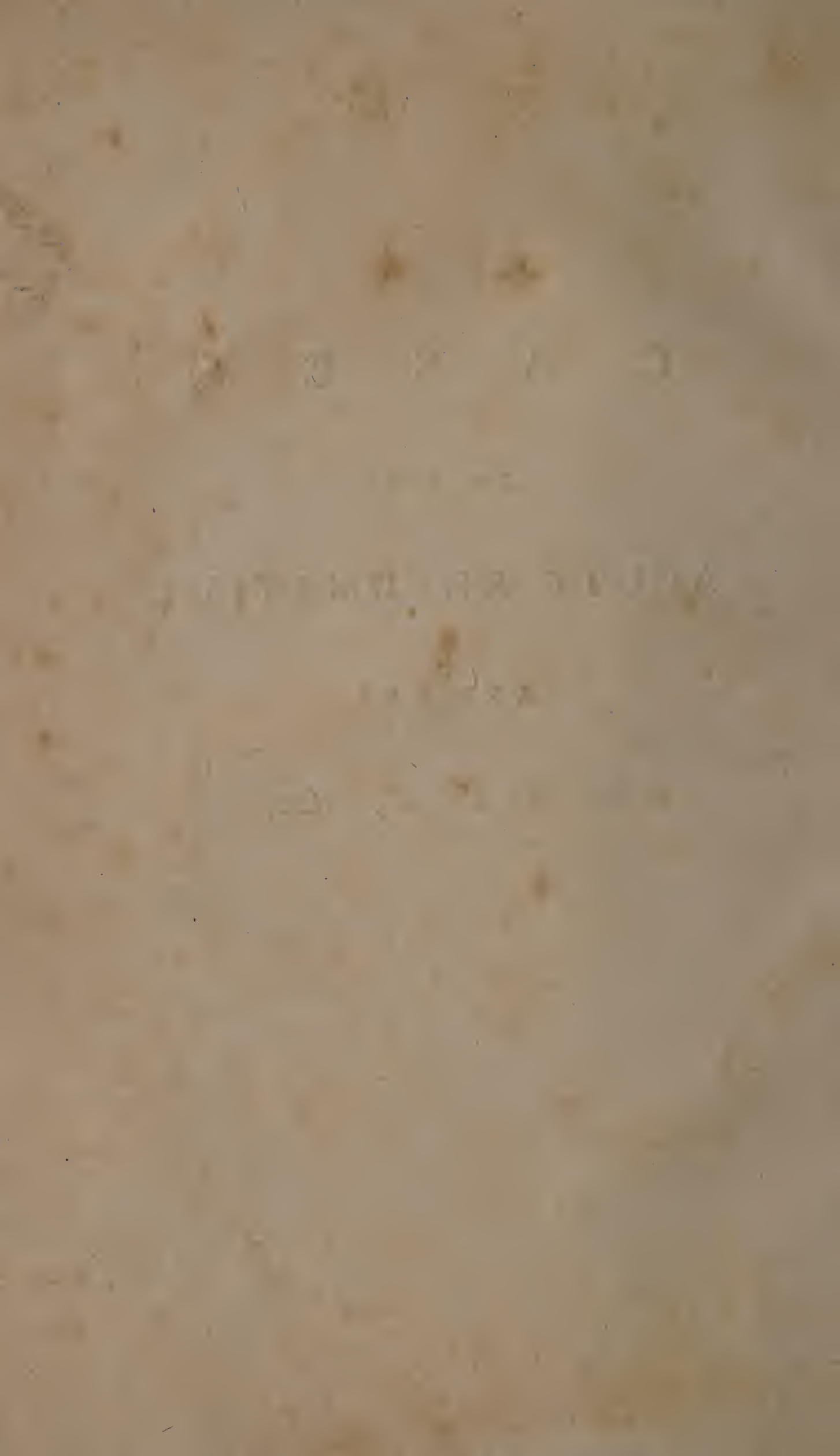
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C A S E S

I N T H E

ACUTE RHEUMATISM

A N D T H E

G O U T, &c.



C A S E S  
 IN THE  
 ACUTE RHEUMATISM  
 AND THE  
 G O U T;  
 WITH  
 CURSORY REMARKS,  
 AND THE  
 METHOD OF TREATMENT.

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By THOMAS DAWSON, M. D.  
 Of the College of Physicians, London.

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— — — — — *την μὴ ὀργὰ. Τα δὲ πλεῖστα, ἐκ ὀργὰ.*

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THE FOURTH EDITION,  
 REVISED AND CORRECTED.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for J. JOHNSON, St. Paul's Church-Yard, and  
 P. ELMSLY, opposite Southampton-Street, Strand.

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MDCCLXXVI.

IT was by the method of transmitting Cases and Cures, that Phyfic first began to be formed into a science; by the same it must be improved and brought, if possible, to perfection.

TEMPLEMAN.



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## ADVERTISEMENT.

**T**HOUGH the publication of most of the few following Cases, &c. was first occasioned by a circumstance Local and Personal, yet the favourable reception from the Public, shews that it hath been considered in a more extensive view. The Author, therefore, wishing to lay aside the very recollection of the cause which originally occasioned the publication, hath, in this edition, expunged every thing relative to it;

B

and

and added some more Cases and Remarks, in order to confirm his opinion, and in hopes of being publicly useful. With this view he hath brought down, in this edition, his Cases in the Gout to September 1774; which, without any thing farther on the subject, he apprehends, will be abundantly sufficient to justify his sentiments and practice.

Hackney,  
December 10th, 1775.

C A S E S

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C A S E S  
IN THE  
ACUTE RHEUMATISM  
AND THE  
G O U T, &c.

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**T**HERE is no occasion to make any apology, for laying a few Cases of my practice before the Public. —The consequence, I trust, will be this —either, that I myself shall receive some improvement from the reasons and objections of others, (if any be disposed to object) or—that such of them, who can read without prejudice, will be induced to follow a like method of practice, when

similar cases shall occur, which hath been attended with such evident advantage in my hands, for a considerable length of time.

It is a stale artifice of illiberal and ungenerous minds, to oppose, with great vehemence, any remarkable deviation from the common road of practice. But the candid and ingenuous will ever examine for themselves, be disposed to suspend their judgments, readily submitting every new experiment, not obviously hazardous, to the decisive test of fact and experience.

Permit me here to assert, by way of preface, in common with other medical writers, that the health and happiness of mankind are much concerned in a right and judicious practice: to urge also the same plea with them, that this is the principal motive for laying before the Public a few facts and observations, desiring just the same allowance of credit, on this head, which is usually given to others, and no more.

Let me farther apprise the reader, what he is to expect—No formal or elaborate treatise,



treatise, protracted to an unnecessary length, decked out with a variety of uncertain theories, or blind conjectures, that endemic disease in physical writings. I mean only to offer a few plain cases of the latest date, with, as was hinted before, some few observations, in that frequent and excruciating disease, commonly called *an acute Rheumatism*.

Having thus bespoken the attention of the reader, I proceed immediately to the Cases themselves; the remarks and observations upon which shall either follow each Case, or be added at the conclusion of the whole, as may best convey my intention and reasoning.

## C A S E I.

**M**ARY Wright, of Stoke-Newington, of a sanguineous, and healthy complexion, aged 19, was, on the 14th of August 1772, suddenly seized with a pungent,

gent, throbbing pain in her left ankle, which quickly afterwards became red, and swelled. She herself, and her neighbours, attributed this at first to a strain ; for the removal of which, liniments, &c. were applied, but without effect. Her pain sensibly encreased by the warmth of the bed ; and, on the third day from the attack, she became manifestly feverish ; observing, at the same time, that her fever, her sweats, as well as the acuteness of the pains, were greatly augmented during the night. The anguish, before this time confined to her ankle only, was now become universal. The joints of her legs and arms were remarkably swelled and inflamed ; and her fever, thirst, and restlessness, seemed daily to encrease. Upon which she called for assistance ; and, as well as I could guess, both from its taste and its effects, (always occasioning a sense of coldness at her stomach) a single saline mixture, with the addition of nitre, was all that had been directed for her.

I was sent for on the 27th, a fortnight from



from the commencement of the complaint, and found her as above described. Her tongue was white, but moist, her pulse quick, but rather weak. She was withall very costive. There was no delirium; nor had there been the least tendency to it at any time.

I ordered her to be bled immediately, and directed half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in two ounces and a half of common water, to be taken at night, and repeated early in the morning. Both the draughts were taken without any difficulty; and in the evening of the 28th, I found her sitting up; her pains and fever having intirely vanished. The blood was extremely fizy and viscid.

The medicine gave her a few motions, and produced a critical discharge, both by perspiration and urine.

Nothing seemed farther necessary, nor was any thing farther done, than barely directing a little Elix. Paregor. to allay the ruffle, and to prevent the looseness going too far. I neither followed it with the

bark, nor directed the cold bath: one or other of which I have usually directed, and sometimes both, to prevent a return of the disorder.

Happily for the patient, she stood in need of neither, but hath continued perfectly well ever since.

#### R E M A R K S,

**L**ET me here request the reader to reflect with himself, whether, in the whole course of practice, there can possibly be a more immediate connection betwixt the operation of the medicine, as a cause, and the removal of the disorder, as its effect, than in the case here exhibited. The relief was speedy, the recovery perfect. No case in practice can be less ambiguous. This once admitted, it is most apparent, that a disorder,

order, which is often very tedious, hath been vastly shortened ; a great deal of exquisite pain and suffering cut off, much blood-letting prevented, a numerous farrago of clysters, blisters, nitrous, saline, and attenuating medicines superseded ; and, what is no immaterial consideration to that industrious class of mankind most subject to this complaint, a vast expence lessened, and a long detention from business prevented. And if a more certain, and an abbreviated crisis of this disorder may be hoped for, the aggregate advantage to the community, from such a treatment becoming general, must be too high for estimation.

For let it be observed, that this complaint is peculiarly prevalent in Great Britain, owing, perhaps, to the temperature of our climate, our insular situation, the damps and moisture to which we are subject, the sudden transitions from heat to cold, and *vice versâ*, more especially in autumn, and the succeeding months, till very late in the spring. It also attacks persons of the most active and happy constitutions ;



constitutions ; the husbandman, the gardener, the soldier, &c. the inferior indeed, but not the least useful class of mankind.

Now, what forbids us to hope for the like happy termination of this tedious disorder, which took place, both so speedily and so effectually, in the case above-mentioned ; and which, though simple and uncomplicated, was as alarming, and the pain as excruciating, as any I had ever seen ? There can surely be no absurdity in supposing similar causes will produce similar effects. Doth not humanity then call upon us, success flatter, and reason approve and urge, farther trials in every like instance ?

Great care, however, must be taken, that the circumstances be really similar, when we do make use of the same treatment. It would be the height of presumption and temerity, because bleeding, purging, cooling, sudorific, incrassating, or attenuating medicines are, in some particular fevers, and in certain periods of a fever, very useful—to apply these rashly,

without such an attentive discrimination of circumstances, as may best direct us to the *When* and *How*, they are respectively necessary.

It is almost needless to observe, that fevers have their respective differences, their respective rise and progress, declination and crisis. In all of them, different stages require a different kind of treatment; and what might be proper practice in the commencement, may be much otherwise in the advance of the disorder, and so *vice versa*.

This general observation is but superficially touched, in order to introduce a retrospect upon the given case with more advantage.

We have here a patient, who had been grievously afflicted for a full fortnight, bled, after an attentive inspection of the case, in the evening of one day, when this particular medicine was administered soon afterwards, and repeated in the morning; and in the evening of the same day, totally freed from all fever, and every attendant complaint: her health restored  
without

without any farther measures being used, or any return of her disorder. Will this warrant us to do the same, at all times, and in every stage of the disease, without any consideration of circumstances? No, surely! This would be a most hasty and imperfect conclusion indeed, and might lead to very dangerous errors in practice. A fortnight had elapsed before the above measures were taken for her relief: nature had, all this time, been at work in her own mysterious laboratory. A fever was visibly her instrument. She had not been disturbed in her operations either by bleeding, by clysters, or purgatives. A saline or nitrous mixture, such it appeared to me, was all that had been given. A great costiveness prevailed, and the fever, though more inert, yet still retained a degree of activity, as is usual before it takes its departure. Nature also, it is very probable, had been discharging some of the offending matter through the inflamed and tumefied joints, by an insensible, whilst the intervening sweats were doing the same, by a more sensible perspiration.

The



The morbid matter seemed fully prepared, by a due concoction, if I may use an ancient phrase, to pass through the innumerable and invifible outlets, which cover the furface of the body, as well as down the great excretory canal, through the urinary paffages, and the orifice of the vein. All this affiftance being given at once, in the feafonable moment, when nature was ftuggling in this laft finishing operation, the crisis became perfect and compleat.

The time *When* this was done, is fo material a circumftance, that it can by no means be overlooked, if we would purfue a fimilar treatment. Had the fame meafures been directed on the fecond, third, or fourth day from the commencement of the diforder, it is probable, that they would have been attended with no fuch fortunate event, but perhaps quite the contrary. The ftate of the cafe then, would have been no longer the fame; and therefore the expected iffue might have been very different, tho' the prefcribed methods were the fame. We might have been  
doing

doing harm instead of good, and obstructing nature too much, in her wise and kind endeavours to serve us. Both the fever and the costiveness might have been wanted here, for the present, to forward and execute her intentions, and to ripen the matter for a more speedy and effectual termination.

I had no reason, perhaps, to lament, that the usual methods had not been pursued in the more early stage of the disease. This was an advantage, at least it appeared so to me, on a careful review of the case. From hence I was induced to conclude, that even in this ardent and inflammatory fever, we may be too hasty and precipitate, in pursuing the common practice of early bleeding, and other evacuations; and may carry them much too far. Would it not be more adviseable to wait a little, to do nothing without an urgent necessity, except in the dietetic way, or only something to amuse the patient, and guard against any great irregularities? If his sufferings should be rather greater for a few days (tho' I am not certain that would be the case) yet he is likely to be rewarded,

warded, by a more speedy release from them, and a more perfect recovery of his health.

Add to this consideration, that we have greater compass allowed us in the rheumatic fever, than in many others, where the same cautious proceeding is advisable: because this is not, in general, a disorder either of such mortal danger, such rapid progress, or such speedy issue, in respect to life or death, as to allow no time to look about us. It affords us commonly sufficient leisure to make cool observations on its progress, its *ακμῇ* or state, its declination and variations, and also on the tumefied parts, (*viz.*) whether red and florid, moist or dry, whether hard or soft, and in a subsiding state, when less erratic and more stationary.

It would be unpardonable, when we have several indicative circumstances presented to us, in the acute rheumatism, not to pay the strictest attention to them. For by repeated observations, conducted with proper accuracy and minuteness, in a variety of cases compared with each other, we may possibly hit upon that critical moment,



ment, that seasonable point of time, when nature invites, and we are ready to join forces in the intire expulsion of the peccant matter from all quarters of the body, and to perform a radical and permanent cure ; without any of those terrible remnants of an imperfect crisis, occasioned either by a premature attempt to assist nature, or by one too long delayed.

This great *desideratum* is worthy of an attentive investigation ; and we should think ourselves very happy, to arrive at more certainty about it. In the mean time, it is best not to be impertinently officious, intruding with our ignorance upon the much wiser designs of Nature to serve us, but to be in constant waiting to obey her orders expeditiously, whenever she shall point at a crisis, and throw out fair and manifest signs for assistance. For Nature will, and must have things in her own way ; and by our impatience to have matters dispatched out of hand, and by endeavours rudely to force her, we may frustrate both her intentions and our own wishes, and be left in the midst of that

distress

distress and affliction, to which no human skill can prescribe either certain remedies or certain bounds.

Such, as well as I can recollect, were some of the ideas which occurred to me, on reflecting upon the above Case.

The following Case I shall give in the words of the letter sent me, by the gentleman who attended the patient. Mr. Johnson, Surgeon and Apothecary in Walthamstow, was at that time an intire stranger to me; but was so obliging afterwards, as, at my request, to draw it up; and now gives me his permission to publish it, though written with no such intention.

## CASE II.

GEORGE Turner, a whitesmith, in  
Marsh-street, Walthamstow, in the  
35th year of his age, of a middle stature,  
C strong

strong tense fibre, and good constitution, desired me to attend him, on the 3d of September last, having been very ill for several days of a rheumatic disorder of the inflammatory kind.

The case at first appeared to me rather alarming, and attended with some danger of his life as well as his limbs. He had a continual pain in his arms, legs, and thighs, several of his joints swelled and inflamed; and had, at times, very acute pains on the muscles of the thorax and membranes of the side; his pulse very quick and hard, tongue extremely dry and foul, and intense heat and dryness in the skin, accompanied with sickness, nausea, and a violent diarrhæa.

In order to stop the looseness (which seemed to be the principal concern before I was called in) he imprudently drank some quantity of hot Port wine with spices, and made use of several other things, no less improper, with respect to the fever and inflammation of his blood.

I immediately bled him, to the amount  
of



of twelve ounces, and found his blood extremely fizy, with no small degree of acrimony. Two or three hours after, I gave him a gentle emetic; and that, with a few doses of rhubarb, &c. soon settled his bowels: after which I put him upon medicines of the cooling and attenuating kind, which considerably lessened the fever, and abated the pain; and he continued better for two days and nights.

The fever then advancing, and the pain increasing, I took away more blood, and repeated it the next morning, in proportion to the strength and fulness of his pulse, &c. with a view chiefly of subduing the fever, as I found the state of the blood the same as at first, and thereby making way for more efficacious medicines, blisters, &c.

The pain continuing obstinate, and very little abated by all that had been done, I next morning advised calling in a physician; and Dr. Dawson was sent for, who coming soon after, and finding the fever on the decline, ordered a draught for him, to be repeated every morning and even-

ing, with half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in three ounces of barley water; and, if I found it necessary, to add Tinct. Thebaic. <sup>a</sup> gutt. xij. which I did three times,

<sup>a</sup> Sir JOHN PRINGLE, in his *Observations* on the Diseases of the Army, says, “ SYDENHAM condemns Opiates as “ fixing the disease, and, so far as I have observed, *justly* ;” and yet the Doctor informs us, “ that since the two first “ editions of his *Observations*, he hath used in the Rheumatism (when there was no fever) Dr. DOVER’S Powder; “ giving for some nights about 20 or 25 grains of it at “ bed-time, with *plenty* of some warm diluting liquor, “ and laying the patient in *blankets*.”—Now, waving every other consideration, Opium being a principal ingredient in Dr. DOVER’S Powder, a question naturally arises here—Doth Opium fix the disease in the acute, and hath it not that tendency in the chronic Rheumatism?—From the Doctor’s continued use of this Powder, we are left to suppose that it hath not this effect in the latter Case.—Should it be asked again—Do the several ingredients with which Opium is combined in this composition, at all diminish or prevent its usual effects? Let Dr. BROCKLESBY answer to one particular:—“ This” [Powder] (which the Doctor justly calls a preposterous farrago) “ I have sometimes ventured to extend to two drams in 24 hours; as “ I am fully satisfied the stimulus of Ipccacoanha, accompanying six grains, or even more Opium in 24 hours, “ where enormous pain is felt, so far prevents its narcotic “ effects, that very few people, who took no more than “ this quantity, grew delirious, or were affected with “ any considerable symptoms of this class, in consequence

times, on account of a great tendency to a diarrhæa, that it might not run off by stool.

Before the Doctor left the room, I took  
care

“ quence of it ; and if any few, by taking sometimes  
“ more in quantity, were so, the complaint proved only  
“ of a few hours continuance ; for it was carried off by  
“ plentiful ablutions of gruel, or of any thin drinks  
“ taken warm and frequently.”—Here it is to be regretted, as the delirious symptoms occasioned by so large a quantity of Opium were thus easily carried off, that this matter was not put to a fairer issue, by giving to some (if this could have been done) Opium only, and Dr. DOVER’s Powder, containing a like quantity of Opium, to an equal number of other patients under the same circumstances, and in the same space of time. This would have been the most likely way to have known whether Ipecacoanha doth indeed counteract the narcotic effects of Opium. As the matter is here stated by the Doctor, some persons may be disposed to think that *enormous pain* might prove as great a stimulus, as the Ipecacoanha.

☞ Thus this matter stood in the second edition of my Cases. Since that time Sir JOHN PRINGLE hath thought proper to publish another impression of his *Observations*, in which he omits intirely any mention of DOVER’s Powder, and its accompaniments ; “ *plenty* of some warm  
“ diluting liquor, and laying the patient in *blankets*.” For, no one surely needs be told, the great difficulty and the great discernment requisite to pronounce with certainty of the effect of any medicine, where such a



care to inform myself whether he meant (as he had directed) to have the whole dose given at once, having never seen so large a

variety take place, attended too with such *circumstances* as are of themselves oftentimes sufficient to bring about a cure. It is something surprising therefore, that Dr. PRINGLE should have retained this powder for such a length of time, and in such various editions of his book, and not have aimed at a much greater degree of simplicity in his prescription, the most probable method of arriving at a knowledge of the real effects of any medicine. “ Scarce any thing (says a judicious writer) hath more retarded the improvement of physic, than mixing things together of a different nature ; for oftentimes many things are confounded together, which, separately administered, might assist the patient, and give credit to the physician ; whereas mixed, they become useless, one destroying the effect of the other.——This affair ought to be looked into and regulated [by those who have the Power] that we may not fall under the lash of some future [Satyrist] who, [with a little variation] might address himself thus to some physicians :

“ Ye jumble in one mass such costly juices  
 “ So various in their natures, in their uses,  
 “ That the poor patient, who relies upon you,  
 “ At once is cheated of his health and money.”

This reminds me of the following story. A physician, of ready wit, being once asked, Why he crowded such a variety of ingredients into his prescription ? answered, To let the *disorder choose* what it *liked best* for itself.

quantity

quantity given before ; and I now declare it as a fact, that I never, in the whole course of my practice (which is upwards of twenty years) saw any one<sup>b</sup> medicine answer one quarter so well, under the like circumstances.

The

<sup>b</sup> Sir JOHN PRINGLE supposeth a non-efficiency in the Tinct. Guaiac. Volat. saying, “The Tincture of Guaiacum  
“ of the Dispensatory contains so little of the gum, that  
“ we must ascribe most of its virtues to the Volatile  
“ Salt.”—Be it so, that the principal virtue of the medicine doth consist in the Volatile Salt, yet both the one and the other must, on particular occasions, be ineffectual, given in the usual quantity. And when the Doctor made this observation, it is highly probable that he proceeded in the customary way of giving the Tincture by drops, or a dram at a time, or little more. This I collect from the Doctor’s manner of giving the Volatile Salts, whether in the acute or chronic Rheumatism ; informing us in one place, “that to twenty grains of the  
“ gum, dissolved with the yolk of an egg, he sometimes  
“ adds a few grains of salt of hartshorn.” In another, “that he gives twice or thrice in the day fifty or sixty  
“ drops of the spirit of hartshorn in a draught of water.” In a third, “This was my practice in the hospital ;  
“ but since that time, having seen great good effects  
“ from the Gum Guaiacum used only as a laxative, I  
“ give it in solution with five grains of Salt of Hartshorn.”

Now I had allowed, after making every deduction,

The first dose greatly relieved him, without being attended with the least ill effect on any account; and after the

that half an ounce of the Tincture contains at least twenty-five grains of the Gum. Later experiments convince me it contains much more. Every dose then, as I direct the Tincture, conveys a greater proportion of it than what the Doctor himself generally gives; for twenty grains is his ordinary proportion; and were the whole of the Gum dissolved by the spirit, every half ounce, if I calculate right, would contain forty grains of the gum.

☞ The Observation above, which Sir JOHN PRINGLE had made, respecting the “Tincture of Guaiacum of the Dispensatory,” was so far from being just, that since the appearance of this little tract, he hath been induced wholly to omit the hasty reflection which he had passed upon the tincture, and all that he had advanced in the note above, concerning the volatile part; fully convinced, it should seem, of the inefficacy of giving either the Gum or the Volatiles in such small and trifling doses, (as in his former practice) telling us, with respect to the Gum, instead of twenty, as in his stated Formulary, he now usually gives thirty grains of the gum; and the Volatiles, it may be supposed, in a like greater proportion. For no mention is now made of giving the Gum with a “few grains of Salt of Hartshorn,” *to keep up a perspiration*; “five grains of Salt of Hartshorn,” &c. &c. —The Doctor, however, still recommends the Guaiacum and Volatiles, in general terms. But how doth this differ essentially from the “Tincture of Guaiacum of the Dispensatory?”

second,




second, in the morning, I found him in an universal, fine, gentle sweat ; his pulse greatly softened, and quite calm ; a fine concocted sediment in his urine, and the pains and swellings in a manner gone. —It is to be observed, that though two large blisters<sup>c</sup> were applied to the affected arms, at the same time the draught was given, the relief he found so soon after, cannot well be attributed to any thing but the latter. The draughts were continued

<sup>c</sup> Dr. LANGRISH agrees with Dr. FRIEND, in recommending *vesicatories*, in *ardent acute Fevers*, provided they are applied towards “ the *stationary period* of the “ fever, when the *solids* begin to flag, and stand in need “ of a *stimulus* ; or when the natural operations are insufficient to discharge the morbid matter through “ the excretive glandules, without such assistances. But, “ on the contrary, whilst the vital powers are too “ strong, whilst the vessels and fibres are too rigid and “ dry, whilst the blood and lymph are viscous and inspissated merely by the intenseness of the heat, and “ whilst all the efforts of nature are sufficiently strong, “ the application of blistering plaisters must needs be “ improper.”

The reader will observe, that this is the only case wherein blisters were applied, when the breath was not affected ; and that the cure does not seem, in this instance, to have been accelerated by them.

three days, till the pains had perfectly left him, without the Tinct. Thebaic. <sup>d</sup> —

But

<sup>d</sup>  Since the appearance of the query (at p. 18, note <sup>a</sup>) relative to the effects of Opium, in each kind of rheumatism, in the last edition of these Cases, Sir JOHN PRINGLE, instead of confirming SYDENHAM's observation, viz. that Opiates fix the disease in a rheumatic fever, as being a *just one*, which he had formerly done, now adds, *how justly may be a question*—But take the remainder of the paragraph as Sir JOHN now puts it, for I had thought this was an observation made in the army: “ during my practice in the army, relying upon his  
“ authority, I likewise abstained from them in the  
“ rheumatism, both acute and chronical. But since  
“ that time, being *moved by the testimony of others*, I  
“ have altered my method in that respect; and in sharp  
“ nocturnal pains, preventing all rest, I have sometimes  
“ successfully given from 20 to 25 drops of *Tinctura*  
“ *Thebaica*, joined to 30 drops of the *Vinum Antimoniale*;  
“ but, *in other cases*, I have *imagined*, with SYDENHAM,  
“ that it was better to omit all such medicines.” In  
*other cases*!—What cases does Sir JOHN mean? Surely not, when rest is obtained without them, and when the pains are not sharp.—In such cases, doubtless, Opiates are not necessary. When, therefore, Sir JOHN says, it is better to omit all such medicines, the question still recurs—Is it for the reason assigned by SYDENHAM, “ that Opiates  
“ have a tendency *to fix the disease*,” which observation Sir JOHN had formerly confirmed? or is it because they would be superfluous when rest is not prevented by the pains, or when the pains are not sharp? or for what other reason?—“ *Moved*,” saith Sir JOHN, “ *by the testimony*

But from making too free, on all accounts,  
(as I frankly told him at that time, and  
forewarned

“ of others”—May I ask here, By what testimony? Was it that of Sir RICHARD BLACKMORE?—Hear then what Sir RICHARD saith on this head. “ It is very certain, “ that the great pains, and obstinate wakefulness and “ inquietudes, require the use of pacific medicines. Dr. “ SYDENHAM forbids the use of Opiates, till about the “ fifth day; but, in my opinion, he gives no convincing “ reason for that injunction; and the apprehensions he “ entertains of their exasperating and augmenting the “ symptoms, if given sooner, do not proceed from reason “ or experience, at least are not congruous to mine, who “ have used them from the second day, not only with- “ out detriment, but with advantage.”

“ In all acute and *vehement pain* (says Dr. CHEYNE) “ *Opium* is the sovereign relief, particularly in the “ *Colic, Stone, Gout, Rheumatism, &c.* It operates by “ *relaxing* and unbending the fibres, *overstretched* and “ *crisped up by pain.*”

Hear farther Dr. TISSOT’s observation: “ The pains, “ [in the rheumatic fever] are generally most severe in “ the night; whence it hath been usual to give com- “ posing soporific medicines. This, however, has been “ very erroneous, as Opiates really augment the cause “ of the disease, destroy the efficacy of the proper me- “ dicines, and even, far from asswaging the pains, fre- “ quently increase them. Indeed, they agree so little “ in this disease, that even the patient’s natural sleep at “ the invasion of the complaint, is rather to his detri-  
“ ment.



forewarned him) and perhaps, from some fresh cold, the pains returned some days after; and, for want of being properly at-

“ ment. They feel, the very moment they are dropping asleep, such violent jerks, as awaken them with great pain; or if they do sleep a few minutes, the pains are stronger when they awake.”

Now, on the whole, let us for a moment imagine to ourselves, that a Tyro in physic should set himself down seriously to read and consider these differing and opposite sentiments, not of different writers only, but of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> same ~~writers~~ <sup>writers</sup>, at different periods of life, on one and the same subject—How great must be his distraction? and how little instruction or satisfaction would it be possible for him to reap from their labours?—It is highly unfortunate, therefore, that amongst such a variety of professed *Observers*, so much apparent doubt and uncertainty should still prevail, and on a subject too not the most intricate and perplexed.

And farther, what doth all this contrariety of opinion evince, but that physicians have yet to learn either the *Kinds* of paregorics most requisite for palliating the symptoms in this disorder, or the *Times* most proper for administering them?—For the natural tendency of Opium is to allay pain; and Guaiacum also is acknowledged to have “ great good effects in the rheumatism :” if then, either the one or the other fail of their proper effects, is it not natural to conclude, that this ariseth from not knowing *How* and *When* they are respectively to be given?

tended



tended to, continued troublesome for some time.

Walthamstow,  
March 31st, 1773.

R<sup>d</sup>. JOHNSON.

## R E M A R K S.

**F**idelity in the narration of Cases is indispensably required, joined to an accurate attention, even to very minute circumstances, before we can make a judicious comparison, and be enabled from thence to determine, that they are Cases in point; and so far similar in their capital circumstances, as to justify the same conclusions, and the same treatment.

Let it be farther observed, that there may be some little and circumstantial differences, yet not of so essential a nature, as to affect the sameness, or similarity of the Cases.

Here we have a fever of several days standing, before any assistance was called for.—

for.—Instead of costiveness, the usual concomitant of this complaint, a looseness was prevalent from the beginning, and through a considerable stage of the disease. The blood was (as is usual in pleurifies and rheumatisms) buffy and fizy: in this gentleman's idea, it was moreover in an acrimonious state. The fever, we find, after abating a little, returned with equal violence. The pain in the limbs remained obstinate, without much abatement. But after the third bleeding, the fever being on the decline, I saw it necessary immediately, before it had quite deserted us, neglecting the less material circumstances, to direct my aim to the capital intention, of giving assistance in the absolute expulsion of the offending matter.

I considered things as in a state of full ripeness for acting in this manner; and accordingly threw in the medicine, without farther evacuations by the lancet; which happily seconded my intentions, by an universal gentle sweat, shewing the crisis, both by a calm softened pulse, a  
fine

fine concocted sediment in the urine, and an almost intire cessation of the pain;—tokens these generally admitted as manifesting a perfect crisis.

The same medicine was repeated for three days successively; though it ought to be observed, that the crisis manifested itself, as in the former case, evidently after the exhibition of the second dose.

Now, as the patient had been greatly exhausted by the continuance of the disorder, the repeated bleedings,<sup>e</sup> and other discharges,

<sup>e</sup> Sir JOHN PRINGLE, as an apology for his practice, “with regard to repeated bleedings, which were his chief remedy,” saith, “It is to be remembered, that my patients were men in the prime of life, and of that class that is little subject to *arthritic* pains, which may so readily be confounded with the rheumatic.”—But, *it is to be remembered also*, that Sir John tells us, “the rheumatisms which occurred were generally of a milder kind; as its causes could not operate so powerfully on men, whose *blood* in general was little disposed to *inflammation*, either by high living, or by a full habit.”—Now if this was generally the case, where, I would ask, was the necessity of such repeated bleedings, or of making this his chief remedy?—Again, Sir JOHN would have it remembered “that his men were in the prime of life, and of that class that  
“ is



discharges, I directed, (what is omitted in the Case) as well to remedy these inconveniencies, as to prevent a relapse, a strong decoction of the Bark, with the addition of the Cordial Confection, and left him two or three days afterwards quite well; recommending to him farther, to use the cold bath for some little time. As to

“ is little subject to *arthritic* pains, which may so readily  
 “ be confounded with the rheumatic.”—But what of that?—are we not to remember also, what he tells us in another place, “ that in young people, when the Gout  
 “ is disguised under a rheumatic form, we cannot much  
 “ err, if we treat the case as if it were purely rheumatic.”—Where is the consistency of this?—and what necessity of being thus reminded, when we are informed in the same paragraph, “ that in his private  
 “ practice, among people whose manner of living disposed them more to attacks of the gout, than to a  
 “ true rheumatism; in every ambiguous case, if there  
 “ was fever, I have bled freely, not only once, but a  
 “ second and third time, if the blood was fizy, and the  
 “ patient not too weak [an important circumstance]  
 “ but relieved by the evacuation.”—Now the blood is generally fizy, whether the case be gouty or rheumatic. And whatever propriety there may be in bleeding the patient, so long as he was relieved by the evacuation, certainly the fizy appearance of the blood is too fallacious a mark to justify such a practice.—See the note below.

the

the relapse, which did not continue any great length of time, that is sufficiently accounted for, in the Case itself.

Let us now see, in what essential points these two Cases, and their treatment, do agree, by selecting and separating them from lesser incidental circumstances ; which we may consider, as only a varied drapery, in the portraiture of one and the same person.—They agree in these respects ; the fever was all along strong and vigorous in both ; and continued, in the latter Case, (notwithstanding repeated bleedings) time sufficient to attenuate and macerate the offending matter, be that what it will. They agreed also in this respect, that when I was called in, the fever was not without activity ; and though, in the latter Case, rather more languid than in the former, yet had it by no means quitted either of the patients. They agree farther, that the very day after the exhibition of the medicine, a perfect crisis was formed. Add to this, that the tumefied parts, and the ap-  
D pearances

pearances of the blood, were the same in both. These I call the capital circumstances.

With regard to the dryness of the skin, in the latter Case, and the diarrhæa, which had continued throughout a great part of the disease, and which might possibly contribute to render the skin dry and parched; though this circumstance was not wholly disregarded, yet it did not appear of sufficient moment to decline the use of the medicine, while other material considerations strongly indicated its propriety; especially, as it might be so easily restrained, if excessive. Nay, rather, Was it not proper, as far as could be done with safety, to conspire with Nature, if indeed it was her intention, to carry off part of the morbid matter by the looseness? Be that as it may, the offending matter was to be expelled, the fizy disposition of the fluids attenuated, (if indeed that be possible) now that the fever was threatening to leave us, and every thing seemed ready for that kindly  
*diaphoresis*;



*diaphoresis*; <sup>f</sup> the most usual, and the most happy termination of the acute Rheumatism.

It will here perhaps be said, Beside the other differences already mentioned, how can the Cases be the same, when, in the latter, three bleedings took place, and in

<sup>f</sup> Sir JOHN PRINGLE says, “ It is true, that I commonly added the diaphoretic powders, mentioned in the cure of inflammatory fevers in general, but without having *any confidence* in them; and at no rate with a view to promote any *sensible discharge by the skin*. For though, in my first practice, I attempted, by means of the *Spiritus Minderii*, and other medicines of that nature, to force a sweat, yet I was afterwards convinced, that this was not the *proper manner* of treating a rheumatism *with fever*.” —

Dr. BROCKLESBY, on the contrary, in some later Observations on the rheumatic fever, says, “ This quantity, *viz.* half a drachm of Nitre, I repeated every hour, or oftener, as the stomach would bear it; and thereby I have often extended the doses of Nitre to ten drachms, or sometimes to more, throughout every twenty-four hours. Such quantities, in three or four days, seldom failed wonderfully to relieve the patient, and very often to cure him intirely, by the most plentiful and profuse sweats, which, without any other than the method here recommended, frequently continued without interruption, till near the crisis.” — Who can reconcile these discordant observations of different observers, in one and the same disorder !

the former but one? This answer will be sufficient: That, notwithstanding the intention was, undoubtedly, to subdue the fever by the lancet, a practice this but too common; yet, we find, the fever did still continue. The fact was, (and this is principally to be regarded) that beneficial instrument of Nature did not forsake us, but continued its services so long, and so late in the disorder, as to attenuate sufficiently the peccant matter, and fit it for expulsion; about which latter business, I supposed she was at that time principally employed.

This was certainly an advantage in the present Case, and is a sufficient answer to the objection.

It is a happiness to find, that there is that latitude allowed us, with regard to the fever in this disorder, that it will admit of repeated evacuations, even to a fifth or sixth time. Riverius pushed it to ten or twelve times. And indeed, where the principal part of the cure is rested upon bleeding, this must be the case. Numerous repetitions will be necessary. But how  
the

the case may stand here, and whether we run no danger of introducing a debility into the constitution, by such a practice, is worthy of the most serious consideration. For if, after all, some remains of the peccant matter be left in the habit, Nature, thus weakened, may not be able to effectuate their expulsion ; and the consequence to be apprehended, is a fixed and chronic \* Rheumatism, either in a lower

\* Sir JOHN PRINGLE, speaking of the chronic Rheumatism, says, “ It is one of the *most* obstinate disorders of the Hospitals ; being either the *remains* of a Rheumatic fever, or the continuation of pains that proceed at first from neglected colds.” Now if it be, according to the Doctor’s own observation, the remains of a Rheumatic fever, what so probable to occasion, and to render it obstinate, as prematurely checking the fever, by “ repeated and almost daily bleedings,” thereby preventing a complete and finished crisis ?

☞ Since the above remark appeared in the former edition of my Cases, Sir JOHN hath thought it adviseable (supposing, as may be imagined, that it would be less likely to affect the propriety of his general practice of “ repeated and almost daily bleedings,”) to state his observation very differently, thus—“ The chronic Rheumatism I found one of the *more* (not, as formerly, *most*) obstinate diseases of the Hospital, being either the remains of a rheumatic fever *ill-cured*, (a term which had never occur-



lower or higher degree, of shorter or longer duration.

But supposing nothing of this, how may the constitution, in other respects (though not immediately visible) be impaired, by running off so much of the blood of life in the course of a few days or weeks ?

“ red before) or pains,” &c. *Ill-cured!* Sir JOHN’s method of curing was by “ repeated and almost daily “ bleedings.” Doth he mean then to insinuate, that a contrary treatment ; *viz.* the omission of repeated and almost daily bleedings, left the fever *ill-cured?*—That could not be. It doth not appear, that a single attempt was made to remove this distemper without the lancet. One general method was pursued. The chronic Rheumatism, the supposed *remains* of a rheumatic fever *ill-cured*, was, as fully appears, from the Doctor’s own Narration, a common disorder of the Hospital, and was treated in one common way.—“ Repeated bleeding,” saith Sir JOHN, “ was the chief remedy.”—If then the chronic Rheumatism be, as the Doctor himself all-a-long allowed, the remains of a rheumatic fever *ill-cured*, nothing, as was before suggested, appears so likely, either to occasion the complaint, or to render it obstinate ; nor can any *cure* be worse, than that by “ repeated “ and almost daily bleedings.”—The alteration, therefore, in the turn of the sentence, doth by no means invalidate the force of the remark. To have done this, it was incumbent upon Sir JOHN to have shewn, that the *ill treatment*, of which he speaks, consisted in the *omission* of bleeding. But this is not once attempted.

What

What a train of disorders may not arise from an impoverished blood? May not new foundations be laid, in this practice, of turning a good constitution into a bad one, making us an easier prey to future disorders of various kinds? Though it may not be in our power to determine absolutely how this matter may stand, considered in its remotest consequences, we have reason at least to apprehend some unhappy, though more distant effects.

Possibly it might be this apprehended consequence, and the imperfect crisis which he had frequently observed to attend this practice of repeated bleedings, that made the great Sydenham<sup>n</sup> pathetically

<sup>n</sup> Dr. SYDENHAM, in a letter to Dr. BRADY, says, “As  
 “ to the cure of the Rheumatism, which you likewise  
 “ desire to be informed of, I have frequently regretted,  
 “ as well as you, that it could not be accomplished  
 “ without the loss of a large quantity of blood, by re-  
 “ peated bleeding; whereby the strength is not only  
 “ impaired for a time, but weak persons are usually  
 “ more disposed to other diseases for some years; when  
 “ the matter occasioning the Rheumatism afterwards falls  
 “ upon the lungs, the latent indisposition in the blood

cally lament the necessity he was under of using the lancet so freely in this disorder. He disliked it so much, that we find, in the later periods of his life, he even made attempts to do without it, and some very successful ones.

But not to carry the matter so far: though Nature, I believe, who hath subjected us to a great variety of accidents, hath not made us of such very brittle materials, as to disable us from bearing

“ being put into action, by taking cold, or some other  
 “ flight cause. These reasons induced me to search after  
 “ some other method of curing this disease, than such  
 “ repeated bleeding. And having well considered,  
 “ that it seemed to proceed from an inflammation, as  
 “ appears from the other symptoms, but especially from  
 “ the colour of the blood, which exactly resembles that  
 “ of pleuritics, I judged it might probably be as success-  
 “ fully cured, by a plain, cooling, and moderately  
 “ nourishing diet, as by repeated bleeding; and the in-  
 “ conveniencies likewise attending that method avoided.  
 “ Accordingly, I found that a diet of *Whey*, used in-  
 “ stead of bleeding, had the desired effect.”

In another part of his work he adds; “ In young per-  
 “ sons, and such as live temperately, and drink wine with  
 “ moderation, the Rheumatism may be as successfully  
 “ cured by a very cooling and moderately nourishing  
 “ diet, as by repeated bleeding, which they cannot so  
 “ well bear.”

the



the loss of moderate quantities of blood occasionally ; yet, whilst we congratulate ourselves on the latitude allowed us in this complaint, we ought to be *sparing* of carrying our privilege to its full extent<sup>i</sup> ; especially, as the fever is so exceedingly

<sup>i</sup> Sir JOHN PRINGLE says, “ that the Rheumatisms “ which occurred were generally of a milder kind, the “ cure of which was commonly completed in a few days, “ by twice or thrice bleeding, &c.” But adds, “ if the “ Rheumatism was attended with acute pains, or swelling “ of the joints, the cure was chiefly to be obtained by “ repeated and almost daily bleedings, till the feverish “ heat and the pains were intirely removed, or made “ much easier ;” and adduces, with others, Dr. SYDENHAM, as following “ the same method,” without the least intimation that SYDENHAM had totally changed both his sentiments and practice in that respect ; which he hath expressed in the strongest manner in his Letter to Dr. BRADY, and elsewhere (See note “, p. 37.)

¶ Thus I had stated the matter in a former edition. That I may not appear (which I should be very sorry to do) to have misrepresented the case, take Sir JOHN’s former and later words. Formerly he had said, “ This “ method ; *viz.* (repeated bleeding) has been since followed by the best practical writers, and in particular “ by RIVERIUS and SYDENHAM.” The Doctor’s words now are, “ This method, *at least in acute Cases,* “ was afterwards followed by the best practical writers, “ and

ceedingly instrumental in producing that perfect crisis which we wish for.

All

“ and in particular by RIVERIUS and SYDENHAM.” *At least in acute Cases!*—But what of that? no one disputes the fact. SYDENHAM undoubtedly bled freely in the inflammatory Rheumatism. But the main question still returns:—Did he not change both his sentiments and his practice on that head; recommending, *from his own experience*, a method less exceptionable, and equally efficacious? This is most apparent, both from Dr. BRADY’s letter, and SYDENHAM’s reply; and the matter of surprise is, that Sir JOHN should appear to justify his own practice by an authority which fails him totally. How shall we account for this?—Had Sir JOHN rested the propriety of his practice on the result of his own long and painful experience, no one could have censured, on the contrary, it might have been highly meritorious in him, to have receded from what was *Sydenhamian*, or even *Hippocratic*. But SYDENHAM had his experiences also: and SYDENHAM tells us, in the most express terms, that the result of them was a total change, both of sentiment and practice. And how such a circumstance came to be omitted both in Sir JOHN’s former and later editions of his book, remains to be accounted for.

Sir JOHN himself had observed, for a series of years, (it is wonderful he ever should have made the observation) that “ in the acute Rheumatism, *internal* medicines “ avail little.” Might not the observation have applied equally to the *Hospital-Fever*?—He had observed that, in the chronic Rheumatism, “ riding is a specific remedy:” this is *now* omitted.—Might it not have been affirmed with more justice of the Cold Bath?—We were formerly  
told

All that I argue for is this; not to disturb nature more than we can help, nor to open a vein oftener, than what some violent or threatening symptom indicates; neither beginning with it too early, nor carrying it too far. Indeed, when the fever manifests very great violence, or the concomitant erratic pains shift suddenly, from the extremities, to the more noble internal parts, affecting the sides or the breath particularly,

told, that he gave hartshorn, “to keep up a perspiration.” —Now we are told, that he gives thrice a day 40 (formerly 60) drops of the Spirit of Hartshorn as a *cordial*, and *not* as a sudorific. Would it not then be highly injurious in any succeeding writer, to quote the authority of Sir JOHN as a justification, either of his opinion or practice in the above respects, not to mention other instances, after his having, in a more recent publication, either wholly dropped his observations, or materially altered his practice?—This is exactly a case in point: I persuade myself therefore Sir JOHN PRINGLE will find himself disposed to do ample justice, in this respect, to the memory of Dr. SYDENHAM, who hath deserved so well of the Faculty; who hath already reaped, and will continue to reap, those honours which no earthly Potentate can confer; and whose works will be read and revered long after my Cases in the Gout and Rheumatism, and Sir JOHN’s Observations on the Diseases of the Army, are buried in oblivion.

which



which now and then happens, it must be allowed.—

But I shall dismiss this Case for the present, as I may very probably be obliged to recur to it, in the Remarks on the subsequent Cases, with observing, that notwithstanding these lesser differences, and variations, yet the disorder gave way to the same treatment, and the expeditious crisis was the effect of the same medicine.

### C A S E III.

**H**ENRY ABCHURCH, of Dalston, a gardener, in the 20th year of his age, of a tall, thin, sanguineous habit, was in perfect health till the 4th of April 1773, when a *crick*, or *snatch*, as he expressed himself, seized his right leg all at once as he was walking; which soon affected his thigh, and, after sitting down for some time, he became so stiff, and full of pain  
about

about his loins, that he was almost disabled from rising from his seat ; nor could he get any rest in the night ; and, during the night, was unable to turn himself in bed, without assistance.

The next day he was sensibly feverish. All his complaints were increased, particularly the pain in his loins. It removed afterwards to his left ankle, which became red and swelled, as did his knees and his wrists afterwards, to a great degree. The pain and swelling, as they abated in one part, flew to, and increased in another. Though the thirst and fever were considerable the whole time, yet no delirium was ever observed.

On the second day after the seizure, he was bled, and cordial confection, with Sal. C. C. was given him ; and, at intervals, purgatives, with Merc. Dul. ; and the tumefied joints were rubbed with opodeldoc.

Thus matters continued for a full fortnight, according to the best description I could get of the Case.

When I was called in, the pains were  
confined

confined to his knees and ancles chiefly, which were inflamed and swelled in some degree ; and, though in a subsiding state, he was still unable to move them. His fever also was considerable ; but not so active as it had been some days past ; and from the beginning of his illness, he had been, as he was now, rather costive.

Seven ounces of blood were taken away, by my direction ; which was fizy and pleuritic : and the following draught given him that night, and repeated twice the next day :

℞ Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. ℥ss.

Solve in Vitel. ov. vel in Mucilag.

Gum. Arab. q. f.

dein. adde gradatim

Aq. Hordeat. ℥iss.

Syr. Balsam. ℥ss.

M. Fiat. Haust. <sup>k</sup>

<sup>k</sup> This form is put down once for all, for the satisfaction of such as chuse a form. For my own part, I generally give the Tincture in common water, when it can be so taken, with which it mixes very well, without any immediate separation, when the Spirit is fresh and good, and the Gum good also ; and thus sits easiest on the stomach, and bids fairest for answering every intention.

In



In the evening of that day he quitted his bed. His fever left him, and his pains and swellings disappeared intirely. A fingle draught, with a dram and half of Elix. Paregor. was the only thing given him farther; and the patient hath continued from that time to this in perfect health.

#### R E M A R K S.

**T**HIS Case appears quite diffimilar to both the former in *one instance*. The patient was bled in the earliest attack of the disorder, the very day after the seizure.—Doth not this overturn all our former reasoning?—No harm we find infued; none, at least, that was visible. The medicine operated as successfully, and as speedily, after a second bleeding, as in the former Case. We are therefore to suppose the matter was as well prepared, by coction and comminution,  
for

for expulſion, as if no ſuch ſtep had been taken ; ſo that what was conſidered as an advantage in the firſt Caſe, *viz.* the omiſſion of early bleeding, ſeems to fall to the ground at once.

To conſider this matter a little farther : as, in the preſent Caſe, early bleeding was attended with no bad conſequences ; ſo neither was the Omiſſion, in the Caſe of Mary Wright.

Thus far matters are pretty even ; but then, if the fever be an inſtrument in Nature's hand, of ſo good omen and utility, the deciſion is evidently in favour of the Omiſſion, unleſs ſome untoward ſymptom or circumſtance make it neceſſary. And this is all that is contended for.

But let it be remembered firſt, that Abchurch was only once bled, and that a full fortnight had elapſed, before I was called in, and directed him to be bled again ; during all which time the fever had been very active, and doing that for us, which no human art or medicine can do ; and every thing was ripe for the  
crifis,

crisis, which was soon completed after I saw him.

Let it be also observed, that as the first bleeding did no harm, so neither is it manifest, that any great good was gained by it. This however is certain, that the patient in the first instance received no injury from the Omission. I cannot therefore help thinking it an advantage in Abchurch's Case, that Nature was no farther disturbed by venesection, for so long a space of time, as it gave an opportunity of a second bleeding, immediately before the medicine was given. For it is adviseable to administer the medicine as soon as possible after the bleeding; beginning the use of it early in the evening, and repeating it early in the morning. But perhaps this is being too minute.

All that I mean is, that we ought not to attempt any thing so hostile to the fever, as to endanger its too early extinction; but so to conduct ourselves, as not to disoblige our best friend too much, and provoke him to leave us to struggle  
E with



with a cold chronic Rheumatism, where the offending matter, intrenching itself in some deep recess of the body, may annoy us all our future days with continued pain and misery.

My reasoning hitherto hath proceeded upon the Cases produced, and my own observations.

Let us now see, how the doctrine laid down will agree with, or is countenanced by, the principles and sentiments of some of the most eminent medical writers; though it must be confessed, that their practice, on this head, differs from mine.

The great French physician Riverius began the cure of this disorder with bleeding, and sometimes repeated it even to ten or twelve times, restricting it only by the abatement of the complaint, or the apparent inability of the patient to bear more, without manifest injury. But at the same time, this excellent physician, who seems to have considered the disorder with much attention, forbids purgatives and sudorifics, in the beginning, the increase, or even when the fever hath arrived

rived at its altitude and permanent state ; allowing gentle openers in the declination only, and the stronger purgatives not till the intire absence of the fever, and sudorifics not till after these, and last of all.

Now, let us ask ourselves this plain question—If, in the opinion of this great man, Nature ought not to be disturbed, either by purgatives or sudorifics, until the declination at least of the fever, why should she be disturbed and counteracted by bleeding, and weakening the fever unnecessarily ? The violence, thus offered to nature, by purgatives and sudorifics, too early administered, did harm, and by no means answered the end proposed. How, indeed, could this be otherwise ; it being impossible to carry off the noxious matter, as yet not sufficiently fitted for secretion and evacuation, and to pass through the extreme fine strainers and canals, which convey it to the surface of the body ? And what, may we ask, is so likely to produce

this maturity, as Nature's own instrument, the fever itself?

We may, I think, fairly gather, from the account he gives of his own management, that the disorder was spun out to a considerable length, and no perfect crisis obtained, by bleeding *alone*; for, when the fever was gone, after the use of the milder, he was constrained to fly to stronger and more drastic purgatives; nay, farther, to bring up in the rear sudorifics, warm baths, corroborants, &c. before he could intirely rout the enemy. And, it is more than probable, by this continual endeavour to subdue the fever, the disorder was protracted to an unnecessary length, and that a radical, and permanent cure, became as dubious as it was tedious. Had he been more sparing of the lancet, the morbid matter would have been sooner ready for expulsion, his purgatives and sudorifics been given with success, the disease terminated sooner, and with less danger of weakening the constitution.

Let



Let it be farther remarked, that this great physician had himself observed,<sup>1</sup> that a fever, along with the Rheumatism, was the happiest omen of an abbreviated crisis, and a speedy termination of the pain. Now, could any observation more strongly confirm the utility of the fever in this disease, or so forcibly prohibit any violent measures to subdue it; when this very fever is confessedly the happiest indication of the shortness of the disorder? And doth not this observation of a justly celebrated physician, whose practice was directly contrary to the principle I have acted upon, give the strongest countenance and support to the above reasonings and conclusions?

During my attendance upon these Cases, I occasionally consulted our own countryman, the great British Hippocrates. And

<sup>1</sup> Quod ad prognosim attinet, affectus iste raro, aut nunquam vitæ periculum infert, sed longitudine sua magnam parit molestiam; ad duos enim vel tres menses perseverat, si sit *sine* febre; imo vero interdum, præcipue si non recte curetur, ad annum, vel plures annos extenditur.—Si *cum* febre rheumatismus oriatur, brevior esse solet, &c.

though indeed the practice of this immortal physician did not favour me, but was directly opposite to mine, (for he bled both early and freely in this disease, at least in the former part of his life) yet his general theory with respect to all feverish disorders, very much confirmed the principles, upon which I have conducted both my experiments, and treatment of it.

But, setting aside his general theory, we shall find, on a careful examination, where he expressly treats on the Rheumatism, such hints and passages as seem extremely conclusive in favour of what I am recommending.

Towards the close of his description of this disorder, he says,—“ In the beginning of the illness, the fever and the  
“ above-mentioned symptoms do sometimes come together; but the fever  
“ goes off gradually, whilst the pain continues: occasioned by the derivation  
“ of the febrile matter to the limbs,  
“ which the frequent return of the fever,  
“ from the repulsion of the morbidic  
“ matter

“ matter by external remedies, sufficient-  
 “ ly shews.”

Let us now weigh well this observation ; from which these two Queries naturally arise.

1st. If some external remedies, by repelling the morbid matter from the limbs, cause a return of the fever—Doth it not appear then, from the fairest deduction, that the fever is the instrument of Nature, to prepare for expulsion the offending matter ; and that, if she be not so happy as perfectly to effect this, by means of a general perspiration, &c. she lodges it upon the limbs, though commonly at a distance from the more vital parts?—So kind is she in all her operations !

2dly. If the fever, which from this plain indication appears to be thus expulsive of the noxious matter, goes off for the most part gradually, “ whilst the pain  
 “ continues, and sometimes increases;”—Doth not this give us the strongest intimation of the caution to be used in the treatment of the fever, and prohibit any at-



tempt to reduce it, either too early or too much ?

The reasonableness of this will be farther manifest, by observing what follows : where he says, “ That though, when the  
 “ fever is gone off, this disorder seldom  
 “ proves fatal : yet the violence of the  
 “ pain, and its long continuance, render  
 “ it no contemptible disease ; and that, in  
 “ case of wrong management, it frequent-  
 “ ly remains, not only several months,  
 “ but some years ; nay, even during life :  
 “ though, in this case, it is not equally  
 “ painful, but hath its periodical returns,  
 “ like the Gout ; and the pain may pos-  
 “ sibly go off spontaneously, after it hath  
 “ been of very long standing.”

Now, doth not this tragical picture, with the additional circumstance of “ the  
 “ deprivation of a man’s limbs during  
 “ life ; the contractions on the internal  
 “ parts of the fingers more especially, as  
 “ in the Gout, while the appetite and the  
 “ general health remain good ;”—Doth not, I say, this tragical picture sufficiently  
 terrify

terrify us, with the too common consequences of an unfinished crisis?

This great author ascribes these dreadful effects, frequently, to wrong management. But we may ask, Whether there can be any management so wrong, as an attempt totally to extinguish that fever, which is so friendly and beneficial, and which he farther observes is apt “to go off gradually,” without an abatement, and sometimes with an increase of the pain?

Indeed, the great author, in the same paragraph, seems to intimate, as if the fever itself was the most alarming and dangerous circumstance—“Though when the fever is gone off,” says he, “it seldom proves fatal,”—yet I cannot help thinking it to be more alarming in its appearance, than dangerous and fatal in its nature, agreeably to his own observation, That it “goes off gradually,” the pain however continuing.

And it must be owned, that many persons of great skill and practice, have entertained the same idea of eminent danger from

from the fever, and are thereby led to carry bleeding to a considerable length ; it being their primary intention to subdue the fever, and to remove the subsequent pains by other methods in common use.

But so much for this.—I must however ask pardon for the freedom of my remarks on those two great physicians, Riverius and Sydenham. Of the latter it must be said, but with due deference, that he departs more from Nature, the physician's best guide, in this, than in his treatment of other diseases ; his sentiments and his practice, both fluctuating very much on this subject. And yet much more is to be learned from him, even in this more defective performance, than from any other writer. He is the greatest ornament to his country ; and, in the sphere of the physical world, shines amidst a few scattered clouds of theory, with so superior a light as justly to merit the poet's elegant compliment to the Julium Sidus,

—— *Micat inter omnes,*

—— *Velut inter ignes*

*Luna minores,*

C A S E



## C A S E IV.

**J**OHAN ALLEN, a porter, in the 29th year of his age, a stout, strong-built man, of a sanguineous habit, was suddenly seized, in the beginning of July 1772, with the usual feverish symptoms, particularly great sickness at his stomach, which were soon followed with racking pains in his limbs.

Mr. Sherfon first saw him on the 9th of July, bled him freely, and the sickness continuing, ordered him a puke of antimonial wine, which was followed with gr. xv. of Dr. Dover's powder. The patient's joints being swelled, and exceeding red and painful, and the fever continuing, the disorder evidently appeared to be an acute Rheumatism. He was bled thrice afterwards, had purgatives given him, at due intervals, consisting of Sena, Manna, Tart. Solubil. Sal. Polychrest. with sudorifics; such as Camphor, Gum Guaiac. Essen. Antimon. Huxham. and other preparations of

of Antimony. By these means the pains and the fever abating considerably, or rather appearing to be subdued, a fair opportunity seemed to offer, of throwing in the Bark; which was done accordingly, and very liberally, both in substance and decoction. But as it ran off pretty quick downwards, it became necessary to discontinue it; and both the fever and the pains of the joints returning, with equal, if not greater violence, recourse was had to Sp. Minder. draughts, with Essen. Antimon. and the camphorated julep; checking the looseness at the same time by a temperate use of opiates.

I saw him on the evening of the 18th, and having at that time a troublesome cough, as well as flying pains, which now and then affected one side particularly, with the above-mentioned symptoms, *viz.* a fever, a pulse quick, but rather weak, tongue white and foul, urine turbid, and high coloured, with something of a brick-dust sediment; the joints of his fingers a little swelled, and here and there red and inflamed. Nocturnal and profuse sweats  
had

had also taken place; infomuch, that he was obliged to change his linen frequently. No delirium then, or in any part of his illness. I ordered him a blister to the side affected; and a mixture with half an ounce of Elix. Paregor. and the same quantity of Sp. Vol. Aromat. of which four spoonfuls were to be taken every five hours.

The next day, the pain of his side disappearing, and observing the fever to be on the decline, I directed half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in three ounces of common water, and a dram of syrup, to be given twice that day, and four spoonfuls of the mixture every six hours.

The draught produced its usual and desired effect, both by urine, perspiration, and stool. Not willing to push the matter farther, the succeeding day I ordered him a cordial draught, with volatile salts, and gutt. viii. of Tinct. Thebaic. to be taken morning and evening, adding to the mixture, the cough still continuing obstinate, half an ounce of spermaceti. The next day, (*viz.*) the 21<sup>st</sup>, eight ounces of blood  
were



were taken from him ; and half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. given two hours afterwards, and in the evening also, in two ounces and half of common water, and a dram and a half of syrup of saffron ; to which gutt. viii. of Tinct. Thebaic were added, to determine it, as much as possible, to the surface, and to prevent its passing off too quickly downwards. On the 22d, it had procured three motions, as it did on its first exhibition, produced a free perspiration, a large discharge by urine, and a total cessation of his pains and fever. A strong decoction of the Bark, with Cordial Confection, was directed afterwards, and continued to the 26th ;—when I left him perfectly well.

#### R E M A R K S.

**T**HIS last Case differs from all the foregoing, in the following respects :—Great sickness prevailed in the begin-

beginning;—a troublesome cough through the whole of the illness;—flying, darting pains affected one side particularly, as in the pleurisy,—which often happens;—and, in the more advanced stages of the disorder, debilitating, profuse night-sweats.

Matters being in this situation, I resolved to pause a little, and to satisfy myself, with attempting to ease the cough, and to remove the erratic lateral pains, by such means, however, as coincided with the general intention of the cure.

Fully convinced, from many appearances, that Nature had aimed at a crisis for some days past, I considered these debilitating colliquative sweats as symptomatic merely, not critical; or, if critical, as her feeble, ineffectual endeavours to throw off an oppressive load from the constitution: but, whether symptomatic or partially critical, most certain it is, the patient always found himself much the worse after them.

Apprehending some danger from the disorder, as being a little anomalous, and  
that

that it must either terminate in death, or be followed with something worse than death itself, an imperfect crisis ; or, at least, that it would be protracted to an unnecessary length, if the usual methods only were pursued ; I determined to try the medicine in this very late period of the disorder, when Nature seemed to labour too much, in her endeavours to effectuate a perfect depuration, being obviously calculated (in the language of medical writers) to *fuse* the blood, and fizy disposition of the fluids ; to rouse the languid spirits ; to excite a kindly and genial perspiration, and drive out of the habit, the noxious matter, by every other outlet.

Such were the happy effects of this medicine, in these untoward circumstances ; and by giving of it for two days only, a most salutary consequence followed ; nor can I entertain a doubt, but that, had it been given some days sooner, the disorder had been shortened, and the patient freed from much languishing and misery. I blamed myself, on reflecting upon this Case, for having acted with too much timidity.



Let me not forget this circumstance, that the patient himself observed, that the sweats which followed the medicine, were not excessive and profuse ; but that he felt a genial warmth and glow during their continuance, and came out of them sensibly better and refreshed, whilst the others lowered and weakened <sup>m</sup> him.

It ought to be farther noticed, that the medicine was not given rashly and at random. I could not help pausing a whole day (a lost day) doubtful, as things were circumstanced, whether to give it or not. The urgency of the case, however, joined to the foregoing reasoning, and the fullest conviction of its utility, determined me to try it ; and the event speaks for itself.

<sup>m</sup> Ἦν οἷα δεῖ καθαίρεσθαι, καθαίρονται, ξυμφέρει τε καὶ εὐφόρως φέρουσι· τὰ δ' ἐναντία, δυσχερως.

## C A S E V.

**J**OHN ALLEN, the person mentioned in the last Case, had a return of his Rheumatic complaints, about midsummer last, (a twelvemonth's interval from his former seizure) attended with a smart fever, violent pains in his shoulders, arms, and legs ; but without any swellings in his joints. His loins also were so stiff, that he was unable to rise from his seat. All his complaints were aggravated by the warmth of the bed.

On the 2d day of his illness he had taken, by the advice of some of his friends, a dose of Jalap, which operated very briskly.

His pain and impatience were so great, on the evening of the 3d day, when I first saw him, that he insisted upon something being immediately done for his relief.

Twelve ounces of blood were taken away, and his old medicine, of which he  
had

had conceived a good opinion, directed twice a day.

Eight ounces more blood were taken away three days afterwards.

On the 6th, he thought himself intirely well ; and desired to walk abroad, which was permitted him, the weather being very fine.

During all this time, he was not confined to his bed ; and the medicine generally gave him three, and sometimes four stools, in twenty-four hours.

In about ten days time, I was sent for again, and informed my patient was taken as ill as ever. I found his pulse quick and strong, and the joints of his fingers swelled a little, and inflamed. He was bled once more, confined to his bed, and the medicine repeated twice a day, for three days ; when a perfect crisis being formed, and the fever and swelling disappearing, the Bark was directed, which in a few days restored him to his usual health and activity.



## R E M A R K S.

**T**HIS Case differs from any of the foregoing, more in the manner of treatment, than in any peculiar symptoms in the disorder itself. On the second day after the attack, a strong drastic purgative was given. An attempt was made to put a period to the disorder in as speedy a manner as possible, by the united effort of bleeding, and by a medicine, of whose efficacy in this disorder I had the fullest experience.

The success answered my utmost expectation ; at least, if any effect may be attributed to the medicine, it was followed with as good success, as the medicines usually given on the like occasions, and on which practitioners wholly depend : I mean saline, or nitrous draughts, especially, if we take into the account, the <sup>n</sup> trifling

<sup>n</sup> Dr. BROCKLESBY, in his *medical observations* on military diseases, hath justly reprobated “ the inefficacy of  
 “ the common practice of physicians, in giving nitre  
 “ about

trifling doses in which they are commonly given. To me they have long appeared, as almost insignificant ; and the best that can be said of them, in this complaint at least, is that they are harmless ; and may serve to amuse the patient and bystanders, till a fair opportunity offer of doing something more efficacious.

Let it be observed here, that in the former part of Allen's second case, no swel-

“ about this town,” ordering drams instead of scruples.—  
 “ I directed,” says he, “ the following regimen : that, for  
 “ diet and sustenance, the sick should be enjoined only to  
 “ drink, for some days successively, the greatest quanti-  
 “ ties of smooth, boiled water-gruel, that their stomachs  
 “ would endure ; in each quart of it, I directed two  
 “ drachms of pure nitre to be dissolved, with or without  
 “ sugar occasionally, and I repeated, at proper intervals,  
 “ as often as ever the stomach would bear it, large  
 “ draughts of this nitrous decoction warmed ; by which  
 “ method I often prevailed on the soldiers to take even  
 “ ten drachms of nitre, or more, the first twenty-four  
 “ hours, in three, four, five, or six quarts of diluting  
 “ drink.” This was no “ presumptuous” attempt in the  
 Doctor ; on the contrary, the world is obliged to him for  
 his cautious experiments, and daring to quit the beaten  
 road of practice.—I would only take leave to suggest, for  
 the Doctor's reflexion, whether the “ plentiful and pro-  
 “ fuse sweats ” were not excited as much, by so great a  
 dilution, as by the *sudorific* quality of the nitre, especially,  
 if regard be had to the nature of the disorder.

lings appeared. How indeed could it be expected<sup>o</sup>? For, not to mention the large evacuations

<sup>o</sup> Dr. MONRO, in his account of the diseases of the *Military Hospitals*, says,—“ We had but very few Rheumatisms, accompanied with swelling, pain, and inflammation of the joints of the knees and wrists, &c. which are so common in our hospitals about *London*.”—Is not this sufficiently accounted for, by telling us, that—“ We bled freely, and repeated the evacuation often, if the blood *continued* *fiery*?”—For it is very well known, that the patients who are sent to the hospitals in town, have frequently had their complaints upon them a week, a fortnight, or more, before any assistance had, or rather, as I should say, before Nature had been obstructed in her salutary operations, by too free, and too frequent evacuations by the lancet.

The practice of repeating the evacuation *so long as* the blood continues *fiery*, is certainly most injudicious; and whoever follows this rule, without a due attention to other more important and less fallacious circumstances, must do it oftentimes to the manifest injury, if not the death of the patient.

☞ Dr. PRINGLE had expressed himself equally unguardedly on this head, saying, “ If the blood in the chronic Rheumatism is not *fiery*,” (in the hospitals, he had informed us it was always so) “ we may suppose the soldier either pretends indisposition, or that the pains are of another nature.”—But he *now* acknowledges, *after my remark upon the words above and below*, “ that he has since seen persons of better condition, with the same complaints, and under no temptation to disguise their case, *without*—any visible *alteration* in their blood.”—Notwithstanding, the Dr. still suffers himself



evacuations made by the dose of Jalap, the common practice of early bleeding

to say, referring doubtless to his former, not to his later practice, “ whenever I found it inflamed, I made the “ patient lose blood ——— *as long as* it continued “ *fizy*, or his complaints remained.”

Dr. HUXHAM speaks much in the same manner, but with marks of greater attention : “ More blood should be “ drawn,——especially if it appears firm and dense, or “ covered over with a *tough* yellowish coat or *buff*, as “ it is called, which, however, *very frequently* doth *not* “ appear, till the second or third bleeding, though the “ symptoms may indicate a very high inflammation.” Further, “ the dense buffy appearance of the blood, with “ a firm strong pulse, will warrant the drawing off blood, “ &c.”—But would not a firm strong pulse, and symptoms indicating a very high inflammation, warrant the drawing off blood, even where none of this tough yellowish coat or buff doth appear ; since we are told in the preceding sentence, “ That it very frequently doth not “ appear till the second or third bleeding ?”—

The fizy surface of the blood, therefore, can be no rule for the propriety of venesection, because it is uncertain whether it doth exist or not, previous to the operation, and when it doth make its appearance, it is not frequently till the second or third bleeding ; and then who will say to what length it is to be carried ?—To continue the practice *as long as* it doth appear, would undoubtedly be (as was said above) to the detriment, if not the destruction of the patient. And besides, this inflammatory Crust, as it is called, is often produced as a justification for drawing off blood, in Cases where it is often to be regretted that it hath been taken away at all ; as for instance, in putrid fevers, dropries, and in the most infirm constitutions.

might obstruct Nature in her salutary operations, and prevent her, by such premature discharges, from depositing the morbid matter, in her usual manner, on the joints, so copiously as could have been wished.

But mark the event:—though the patient found himself sensibly relieved, nay, thought himself perfectly well, and walked abroad; yet, in no long time, the disorder shewed itself afresh. His fever returned, and his joints swelled, and were slightly inflamed: not did it appear that this was occasioned by any irregularity, or the accession of cold.

This was exactly the case in his first seizure. After several bleedings, and when the fever had been so far subdued thereby, that a fair opportunity seemed to offer, and it was accordingly embraced, of throwing in the Bark; yet, notwithstanding, the fever and the pains returned with equal intenseness; nay, possibly, had not the Bark passed off pretty quick by stool, some worse consequences might have ensued.

Nothing, however, could prove more satisfactorily, the safety of the medicine,  
than

than the Case before us ; wherein it was given, not in the latter stage merely, but almost in the very beginning of the disease, and continued for several days, along with suitable evacuations by the lancet.

It cannot, surely, be objected to the medicine, that it failed of success, because the disorder returned <sup>p</sup> soon afterwards. The same objection would lie, equally, against the use of saline, nitrous, antimonial, and camphorated medicines ; all of which proved ineffectual, in preventing a relapse in this same person, when formerly attacked with this complaint, after the usual indeed, but, in my opinion, the injudicious practice of early and repeated bleedings.

But, if it should be denied, that any advantage was obtained by the medicine, previous to the relapse ; if the whole of the ease and relief which was procured, should be ascribed, not to the medicine (and I

<sup>p</sup> May not the Rheumatism, that *agnatus morbus* to the Gout, as BOERHAAVE somewhere calls it, appear with its usual symptoms in more fits than one ?

should



should be unwilling that more should be ascribed to it, than what it justly deserved) but to the loss of blood, it must still be allowed, to be as efficacious as any medicines in common use, where copious bleeding takes place along with them.

It ought not by any means to be forgotten, that it was at the pressing instigation of the patient, overcome with the most exquisite pain and anguish, that I departed from a general rule, in drawing off blood, both early and freely, and administering too his old remedy, in so recent a stage of the disease. It was the first instance, in which I remember to have done it. The experiment was made with caution ; and such are certainly allowable, when no way hazardous.

But if we are to consider this last attack, not as a fresh disorder occasioned either by some irregularities, or the influence of the season, but as a prolongation of the original complaint (and such I did then consider it) let it be remarked, that the medicine was given at the very time, in which I had always given it, *viz.* in the latter stage

stage of the disorder, when Nature appearing to have made her last and full effort to relieve herself, by throwing the peccant matter on the extremities, and evincing by every other indication, that she was ready for this assistance, gave the most flattering hopes of a perfect crisis. I succeeded in this last case, as happily as in the first instance, and by the very same means.

## C A S E VI.

**H**ANNAH SKELTON, of Lowlayton, aged forty, of a strong make, and full sanguineous habit, was, on the 7th of December 1773, seized with a sharp pain in her shoulders, which ran down to her wrists. She had also flying stitches, or catches (as she called them) about her stomach, which moved <sup>a</sup> hourly from one side

<sup>a</sup> Hot and inflammatory Rheumatisms have all the symptoms of the Gout, and, like it, change from place to place,

fide to the other, like a dart, and which, at times, affected her breathing. Nature had been obstructed in the *sexual* operation for above ten weeks ; but on the 15th manifested itself again with proper vigour, as when most regular.

On the 16th, I found her pulse quick, but low ; her thirst considerable, tongue white, both wrists a little swelled, but not inflamed. No swellings in any other part. She was costive, but had taken no medicines.

I directed the medicine, as in the Cases above related, twice a day. On taking the very first dose, the stitches and pains at her stomach intirely ceased, and she was enabled to breathe with ease and freedom. The swellings in her wrists increased, and the joints of the fingers became here and there red, and inflamed. Her ancles also

place, and by over violent evacuations may be translated upon the noble organs ; and by the way, it may not be amiss to observe, that excessive bleedings, and other violent evacuations, constantly bring a hectic, or a dropsy on the patient in this case, diseases of a much more dangerous nature in themselves, and far more difficult to be cured, than the original one. CHEYNE.

swelled



swelled considerably, a day or two afterwards ; but without any appearance of redness.

In this method she continued till the 20th ; when finding every thing as I could wish, at the extremities, and a disposition to a looseness coming on, I thought proper to relax a little, directing only two drachms of the Volatile Tincture of Valerian, twice a day, leaving directions for taking away as much blood as she could well bear (being all along faint and weak) as soon as the catamenia had intirely left her. That was done accordingly the next day, and the blood had its usual buffy and fizy appearance. The Guaiacum-draught was repeated twice a day, from the 22d to the 25th ; when all her complaints ceasing, it was directed only once a day ; and I left her to all appearance perfectly well. On the 7th of January, I was informed, that she remained quite free from her fever and her pains ; but still continued very low. On which I recommended the Bark, and the cold bath.

While these sheets were at the press, viz. (12th February) I accidentally met  
the

the patient, who informed me she had omitted the cold bath ; but on taking the Bark, grew daily better, and was then in full health.

## R E M A R K S.

**T**HE reader will observe, that this Case continued in hand, longer than any of the former.

Might not this be owing, in some measure, to the season of the year ? or to the languid state of the fever ? For it was not that active fever, which sometimes accompanies this disorder, in the spring more especially. And though, after giving the medicine, the peccant matter [so to speak] was thrown in greater quantity on the wrists, and joints of the fingers, and remarkably so on the ancles, yet might not much of the excrementitious matter be carried off by the natural discharge, which continued for several days ? Might not that evacuation contribute also to lower the fever, and prevent its rising to its usual height ? Were not the stitches, which affected the

6

patient's

patient's stomach, and flew perpetually from side to side, occasioned by the retrocession of the matter from the circumference towards the center, owing to the more than usual languor, and low estate of the patient, or to the slowness of Nature's best instrument, the fever itself? Be that as it may—it appeared to me of absolute necessity, to drive out the enemy by the most efficacious means, and to keep him at such a distance, as would least enable him to annoy; and, on some future, and more favourable occasion, to endeavour to force him totally from his intrenchments. The Case itself, and its effects, best speak, whether my conjectures were right.

The reader may see here, that the medicine, call it rheumatic, arthritic, or what you please, had shewed that accommodation (if I may so speak) to this disorder, as to throw the peccant matter from the interior parts, to those extreme ones, where Nature, when strong enough, is generally inclined to deposit it, in order to its elimination.

And



And now perhaps, at the conclusion of these Cases upon the acute Rheumatism, I may be asked, Would you choose to give this medicine, under the notion of its having a specific quality, in the rise or increase of this complaint? Perhaps the question is not so easily answered. Besides, it is rarely the lot of the physician to be called in at the commencement of the disorder. In one instance, it hath already appeared what was done, and how the medicine acted.

In my opinion, the latter case of Allen, (to which I refer) Janus-like, hath two faces; for it doth not give great encouragement to administer it very early in the disease; because the crisis seemed unfinished, and to occasion so quick a return of the disorder. Yet the medicine shewed a certain aptitude to remove the complaint, from the very beginning; and, on its return, with the assistance of one bleeding to favour its activity, a perfect crisis was produced in three days.—All I shall say at present is, that if we must take the disorder *out of Nature's hands*, (too general a practice)

tice) I should sooner do it by this, than by any other medicine.—Future experiments can alone ascertain, how early in the disease, and with what certain advantage, it may be so given.

As to the medicine itself, it is a gentle opener<sup>r</sup>, dissolving, by its activity, the coagulated fæces in the bowels, without pain or griping; nor is it a violent sudorific. Possibly it may also fuse and incide the viscid parts of the blood, as it passes through the circulation; or, by invigorating the coats and fibres of the vessels, may restore an equilibrium betwixt the solids and the fluids. But I stop short, lest I tread the fairy ground of theory, and pretend to know, what no man living doth or can know.

As to its being hot or cold also, I leave that to others, who are much wiser than myself, in the words of Dr. Quincy, when speaking of the virtues of *Camphire*:—

<sup>r</sup> GEOFFROY says of the Gum—"Guaiacum crassa  
 " incidit & attenuat, lenta detergit, obstructa aperit &  
 " liberat, sudores provocat, urinam ciet, &c. &c. Dolo-  
 " res rheumaticos dictos tollit, podagram, chyragram,  
 " ischiada, omnemque arthritim mire juvat, &c."

G

" It

“ It hath been much debated,” says he,  
 “ whether this be really hot<sup>s</sup> or cold ; its  
 “ sense upon the palate, at first taking,  
 “ persuading the former ; and its useful-  
 “ nefs in *allaying inflammations*, encourag-  
 “ ing the latter opinion. If by warmth  
 “ is understood such a subtilty of parts,  
 “ as disposes them to brisk motion, and  
 “ to agitate what is about them ; this has  
 “ as good title to be so, as any thing  
 “ which is not actual fire. And for its  
 “ *allaying inflammations*, that may be done  
 “ by the subtilty of its parts, dividing  
 “ and discussing so far the obstructed  
 “ humours, that they either perspire, or  
 “ are taken up again into circulation by  
 “ the reflux blood.”

<sup>s</sup> As to the Volatile part of the medicine,—“ The  
 “ Salt of Hartshorn,” says Dr. PRINGLE, “ was only  
 “ used occasionally in great depressions ; and even in  
 “ other Cases, I have never been sensible [the observa-  
 “ tion is a just one] of its raising any inflammatory or  
 “ fixed heat, but only a momentary glow.”

How different this from, but how much more just  
 than the words of Dr. HUXHAM, “ It is a certain  
 “ fact,—that Volatile alcalious Salts—given internally  
 “ heat vastly more, quantity for quantity, than the  
 “ *warmest* vegetable alexipharmics !”

Philosophy



Philosophy stands neuter in this debate.

Having thus given a pretty full and particular account of a few Cases, which have come before me from the *limited time*, which I had assigned myself, (*viz.* from August 1772, to December 1773,) it may perhaps satisfy the curiosity of some, to be acquainted with my reasons for exhibiting this medicine, not only in a disorder in which I had neither ever seen, heard, or read of its being given; but also in a quantity so unusually large, as well as so little diluted.—Will it ever be imputed as a crime, to vary or exceed the line of common<sup>1</sup> practice?

<sup>1</sup> Dr. LANGRISH observes, that “ too much credulity  
“ in matters of physic has been a principal cause of the  
“ slow advancement of that art. An absolute resignation  
“ to the opinion of any man, how great soever, without  
“ taking proper pains to judge, examine, and search  
“ into the truth of it, is a slavish submission, and very  
“ unbecoming a rational creature.”

“ Let *great authors* (says Lord BACON) have their due;  
“ but so as not to defraud time, which is the *Author* of  
“ *Authors*, and the *Parent* of *Truth*.”

## R E A S O N S

Inducing me to make Trial of  
Tinct. Guaiac. Volat. in the  
acute Rheumatism.

**T**HE ample experience I had of the utility of Volatiles, in the latter stages of other acute and inflammatory disorders, in which a viscid and fizy disposition of the fluids was apparent, left no doubt with me, that they might be beneficial also in the acute Rheumatism, where there was no discernible difference in the state of the blood. Of their great utility in other inflammatory disorders, in the Pleurisy for instance, I had abundant proof; if so, what should forbid their  
use

use in a complaint, where the state and appearances of the blood are perfectly similar? and in a disorder too, where the fever is less dangerous, as, according to Dr. Sydenham, “ it is apt to go off of itself.”

And with regard to the Gum in the composition of this medicine, if it hath any efficacy in allaying the pains; or may at all be considered as having a specific quality in the chronic, no good reason could be assigned, as far as appeared to me, why it should not also be given in the acute Rheumatism. Having thus weighed matters, many years ago, in my own mind, I determined to make the experiment; which turned out agreeably to my expectations and previous reasonings; and with what manifest advantage I have continued it ever since, let the reader judge for himself, from the Cases above recited. Facts, and not Theories, must determine this matter.

No dispensatories, with which I am acquainted, ever speak of the dose exceed-



ing two drachms, <sup>u</sup> *i. e.* half the quantity in which I have directed it. Few, if any, of

<sup>u</sup> It gives me pleasure to observe, that the anonymous compiler of a little book, intitled, *The London Practice of Physic*, hath, in a second edition, published a few months ago, added a table of the doses of medicines, in which he puts down Tinct. Guaiac. Vol.  $\frac{3}{4}$  fs. ter die. Whether this table was added to the former impresson, I have had no opportunity of knowing. I rather imagine not. My reasons for thinking so are, (it would give me pain to do the author the least injustice) because in no part of the book is any mention made of the *How*, or *When*, it is to be thus given : and farther, from his fixing the dose of the Tinct. Valerian. Vol. at so low a rate, as from gutt. xx. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  ii. Whereas these two medicines, being made with the very same spirit, no one, it is probable, who had been accustomed to give the one in the quantity of half an ounce, would think of giving the other in a less proportion, on fitting occasions. I have frequently directed Tinct. Valerian. Vol.  $\frac{3}{4}$  fs. in two ounces of common water, even to ladies, of no very robust constitutions, affected with nervous and hysteric complaints ; to some, every six hours, to others twice a day, with the greatest benefit.—A gentleman, who was lately seized with a trembling in his hands, in a morning, which disabled him from holding his pen, was perfectly cured by taking the Tinct. Valerian. Vol. as mentioned above, in a very little time, without the least return of the complaint. It may even be given to the quantity of an ounce, or more. For thus I have, in  
several

of them carry it so high. Geoffroy, indeed, says, his Tincture of Guaiacum may be given to half an ounce. Now that is made with Sp. Vin. rectificatissim. not with Sp. Vol. Aromat.—Nor is he so *minute* as to mention, to what degree he diluted it.

During the earlier prosecution of my medical studies, I had never seen it directed otherwise than in drops (so it stands in most writers) or a tea-spoonful at a time at most.

I could not therefore but be surprised,

several late instances, given the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. without the least inconvenience ; but it is unquestionably a much more prudent method to direct it, as I have generally done, in divided doses.

While I am upon this subject, I may just mention, that the Balsam. Guaiac. the utmost dose of which, is here said to be two drachms, may be safely carried higher occasionally. It is usual with me also to give the Balsam. Traumat to the quantity of half an ounce every six hours : whereas this writer mentions two drachms, as being the full dose.

These things are hinted, to encourage a more effectual method of practice, to dispel any timidity in administering these, or such-like medicines, when directed, and to answer the same intention, with which the book professes to be written, the use of younger practitioners.

afterwards, whilst I was attending Guy's Hospital,—in the years 1754, 1755, and 1756, to find it daily given to the quantity of half an ounce.

It was first introduced there, according to the best information I could get, by the late Dr. Munckley; and might possibly be occasioned by the following circumstance. Mr. Girle, an eminent surgeon, had been for a long time afflicted with a sciatica, or Hip-Gout; for the removal of which he had taken this Tincture, for a great length of time, but to no purpose. Wearied out with the pain, he applied to Sir Edward Hulse, who asked him, what he had done for himself? On being informed that he had only taken a tea-spoonful of this Tincture; he desired him to continue his medicine, but, instead of taking it by tea-spoonfuls, the ordinary and common quantity, to take table-spoonfuls; which he did accordingly, and was thus effectually cured.—So much for its introduction into that hospital.

As was very natural, I paid a close attention to the manner of exhibiting, as well



as to the effects of a medicine, which then appeared so extraordinary.

It was at that time constantly ordered to be taken twice a day, in half a pint of barley-water, in the chronic, but never in the acute Rheumatism. And from an authentic testimony, which I have by me, bearing date November 7th, 1772, it appears unquestionably, that it had never been given there in the *acute*, though its use had all along been retained; and its safety and great utility, in the *chronic* Rheumatism, acknowledged in the fullest manner.

Many persons found a great difficulty, in taking so large a quantity, as a full half pint. The quantity was more objected to, than the medicine itself: and this circumstance alone, I apprehended, occasioned it to be ejected more frequently, than it would have been, had the medicine been comprised in a much less compass. This was often the case; and this circumstance, with the farther view of retaining, as much as possible, the volatile part of the medicine, determined me to take the first opportunity, after I had left the house,  
of

of reducing the quantity of the diluent, and to make the whole as compact as possible.

After gradual and repeated experiments, I had the happiness to find, that the watery part might, with great ease and safety, be lessened, more than one half: and for many years past, have never directed the medicine in more than three ounces of barley, or common water, which is six times the quantity of the medicine itself, but frequently in less than even that quantity.

By the testimony referred to above, it also appears, that this medicine is now given, in Guy's Hospital, in about a gill.

The following Cases will shew satisfactorily, that there are persons, and not a few, who can take it, with great facility, much less diluted.

———, servant in a gentleman's family in town, of a tall, thin, leucophlegmatic habit, had, for some days before I saw her, a violent rheumatic pain, (so it was called) affecting more especially one side of her face ; so that she had little  
ease

ease in the day, and in the night the anguish was intolerable. She was costive, and complained, moreover, of great pain in her stomach.

A full table-spoonful of the Tincture (generally supposed to be half an ounce) was given her, in the presence of the family, in four spoonfuls of common water; which she took without any difficulty, and which soon eased, a good deal, the pain at her stomach.

In half an hour's time the medicine was repeated, exactly in the same way; which, in a few hours, intirely removed the pain in her stomach, and not long after the rheumatic pain in her face vanished also.— One in the family, seeing how it succeeded, took the medicine very lately on her own accord, just as above, and cured herself of the same complaint in a very few hours.

A lady, whom no one could suspect of accustoming herself to cordials, or hot liquors, complained of universal coldness, more especially at her stomach, and also of



an acute pain in her gums, and one side of her face. She was costive, and the circulation appeared much too languid.

The medicine was given exactly as in the last Case. On taking the first quantity, she perceived no warmth at her stomach. All the warmth she experienced was in her mouth, as she expressed it. On exhibiting a second dose, an hour afterwards, she felt a genial warmth universally; and passed the night much more free from pain than any of late. Not willing however to rest the cure on this medicine alone, the Bark was directed; and in a day or two all her complaints vanished.

These instances may suffice, should they answer no other purpose, to convince us, that the medicine is a perfectly safe one, when the Cases are proper, even when diluted to no greater degree. But should any one contend here for the necessity of great dilution, it would seem an immaterial circumstance, whether this be done at the very instant of taking the medicine, or at proper intervals afterwards.

After

After what hath been advanced above, it is something surprizing, that a medicine, which hath been in daily use for a great number of years, in one, (and in one only) of our public hospitals, should on no occasion have been prescribed by the physicians of that house, in what is called their *private* practice. No instance, at least, could be produced, of its having been directed abroad, after a most diligent search through the town, in the year 1772. Nay, some of the oldest apothecaries, and of the most extensive practice, had acknowledged, they could not remember \*

\* It is but justice to Dr. BROCKLESBY, to add, That, (unimpressed by the words of his predecessor in the army) “ he gave daily, in the military hospitals, the Tinct. “ Guaiac. Vol. from half an ounce to six drams, diluted “ in two quarts of well-boiled gruel, in the *cold* Rheuma- “ tism.” And I have been credibly informed, he hath, on some occasions, done the same *out* of the hospitals. But let it be observed here, that I have given four times that quantity in the same space of time, as will appear in some of the subsequent Cases.

Dr. MEAD, in his tract on *Pains in the Joints*, after recommending dulcified Mercury, &c. adds, “ in the “ intermediate days of purging, the proper medicines “ are such as are diuretic and laxative at the same time. “ Of this class, I give the *preference* to the Volatile “ Tincture of Gum-Guaiacum, or the Balsam of “ Guaiacum.”——

ever

ever to have seen or heard of its having been so prescribed.

The following Cases will not only shew to what degree this medicine may, on some occasions, be given, and how little diluted<sup>v</sup>, but disclose also what was possibly

<sup>v</sup> I may mention here, that there seems to be no occasion to reduce the diluent any farther. From two to three ounces, seems to be the proper medium, for such subjects, at least, as have appeared in the Cases themselves. It may be taken in this way without difficulty, is easiest retained in the stomach, and seems in general sufficiently compact. But it ought to be observed farther, that in the variety of cases which must occur, circumstances will greatly vary, and no restriction ought to be laid upon the discretion of the physician.

For at the moment I am writing, there is a lady, an arthritic patient of mine, whose delicate and irritable constitution will not even bear a single dram of the medicine under consideration, as I am well assured, without exciting the greatest ruffle and commotion. But I say this in perfect reliance on the information given me, not daring, after the account I had received, to exhibit it even in the smallest quantity. But this should form no reasonable objection to the medicine; for the Bark itself cannot always be taken in Intermittents. I mean not, however, to draw a comparison betwixt the two medicines. All I would suggest, is, that an allowance must be made for that peculiarity of constitution, which may be met with in particular persons.—After I had,  
by



sibly little expected, but what is unquestionably of infinitely more consequence.

by other means, brought the swelling, which had seized her right hand, to its full maturity, and it became red and inflamed, being then in the most exquisite pain, seven ounces of blood were taken away ; which had exactly the same appearance as in the Pleurisy, or acute Rheumatism, though no fever was present. This gave the patient considerable, and almost immediate relief. Sal. Volatile was then recommended, being almost the only medicine she could bear, as a cordial, and with the farther view of resolving (if that indeed be possible) the fizy disposition of the fluids. The Bark, and the Cold Bath, were also advised. But whether the advice was in any respect followed, I have had no opportunity of knowing.

I could not help reflecting, however, that even in this very delicate case, the Gum, and the Volatiles, might have been given with advantage in a separate state, had time been allowed me for farther trials.

## T H E G O U T.

**A**ND now the reader is going to be introduced to a few Cases in that formidable distemper, *the Gout*, which will probably give him some flattering hope, that much good may arise to mankind, from having increased the powers, and extent of this medicine, by enlarging the dose, making it more compact, and by more frequent repetitions of it.

## C A S E I.

**M**R. SAMUEL TAYLOR, of Clapton, aged 62, of a florid complexion, and thin habit of body, had enjoyed a good state of health, till the year  
1760,

1760, when he was instantly struck with a palsy, which affected all the right side; but from which he, in a good measure, recovered speedily, by the usual treatment, except that he was not bled; a very common, but oftentimes an injudicious practice, in paralytic cases. His right leg and thigh continued weak and feeble many years afterwards.

In March 1772, he was as suddenly attacked with a violent pain at his stomach; for the removal of which, whatever attempts had been made, they proved unsuccessful.

On the 12th, I found him in the most exquisite torture; free, indeed, from all fever, and, notwithstanding the greatness of his pain, his pulse was perfectly calm and regular. Though he had formerly been a *bon vivant*, there was no reason however to suspect, that his pains were occasioned by any injury done to any of the viscera. It was most probable, that his present disorder was of a gouty nature, having formerly had slight fits thereof.

H

His



His knees were in great pain, and much swelled afterwards.

Being very costive, an opening tincture with warm cordial draughts, were directed for him.

On the 14th, complaining with some degree of severity, that what was prescribed, did by no means assuage his pains, or reach his case, as he expressed it; three drams of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. were directed, in two ounces and an half of barley-water, night and morning. This eased his pains something; but still insisting that it was not strong enough, on the 15th, half an ounce of the Tincture was ordered, diluted in the same manner. From this he found considerable relief, and persisted in the use of it till the 21st; when his pain returning in a slight degree, he grew somewhat impatient, and earnestly requested, that the draughts might be made stronger. Finding they had no other tendency, than just to keep his body moderately open, his request was complied with; and the half ounce directed in two ounces of common

water every fix hours, and continued three days fucceffively. This never gave him more than three motions <sup>z</sup> in twenty-four hours, intirely removed the pain in his ftomach, abated both the pain and fwelling in his knees, and had no inconfiderable good effect on his paralytic limbs. He never had the leaft return of the diforder of his ftomach, from that day to this ; and was fo far from complaining of the draught being too ftiong, that he frequently requested to have it made ftonger ;

<sup>z</sup> Thofe who are accuftomed to prepare this Tincture, will find, that fometimes near a fourth part of the Gum remains undiffolved, unlefs carefully chofen ; and if to this confideration we add, what is frequently loft by ftanding and otherwife, it is not probable, that, one time with another, much more than 25 gr. are contained in half an ounce of the Tincture.

So I thought, when this note was added to the firft edition of this pamphlet. Since that time, feveral trials have convinced me, that much more of the Gum is, and remaineth diffolved, than I at that time imagined. Nay, I now believe, that the greateft part, if not the whole, is diffolved—when the Gum is good, and the Spirit fresh and good alfo.

A Difpenfatory writer of fome note, calls this Tincture “ an elegant one ;” and adds, “ the Volatile Spirit excellently diffolving the Gum.”

but his request would not be complied with.

Let it be observed, this is not the first Case by many <sup>a</sup>, in which I have for several years given this medicine in the Gout, with such success, as will appear in the following Cases. For I do confidently hope the Gout, if not curable in all cases, may certainly admit of much mitigation and relief, whatever may have been advanced to the contrary, especially where

<sup>a</sup> By way of date, to shew how long I have thus treated the Gout, and how perfect a crisis is sometimes obtained in that disorder, I put down the two following instances, being the earliest, which, at present, occur to my recollection; in neither of which did it ever return, though it is now above eleven years ago, that the patients were affected by it. For the present, I barely mention their names. The first, Mr. Hawtings, of Rumford, who hath, from his manner of living, (to use his own expression) been *intitled* to it many times since; and his apothecary also; Mr. Frost, who seeing the good effects of the medicine on his patient, cured himself of it, by the very same means; nor did I ever hear of his having any return of it. Amongst his other encomiums on the medicine, he said, laughingly, It should, from that time, stand in his books under the title of *Hausſtus Podagricus*. This last gentleman died a few months ago, of a dropſy; and, indeed, it is a wonder he lived so long, considering how little care he took of himself.

Nature



Nature has not been too long in the habit of producing gouty matter.

Nay, I am not without hopes in the more inveterate cases : and proper trials shall be made in future, even where chalky concretions subsist.

The innocency of the medicine I warrant, if given with skill and physical judgment.

That the cure shall be so radical and permanent, that the disorder will never return, I cannot warrant. That cannot be done in any other disorder whatsoever. But before any great and considerable improvements in the medical art can be hoped for, several reigning prejudices, both amongst medical persons and others, must be removed, to pave the way for farther success ; and some of them are of such a nature, that I choose not to mention them in this place.

That I may not appear too sanguine in those confidential hopes which I have expressed, give me leave to quote a memorable passage, from the most capital writer that later ages have produced—" But the

“ radical cure of the *Gout* is yet a se-  
 “ cret ; nor do I know when, or by  
 “ whom, it will be discovered. I hope,  
 “ nevertheless, that I have contributed,  
 “ in some degree, to the good of man-  
 “ kind by this treatise, by faithfully  
 “ pointing out those rocks, whereon my-  
 “ self and many others have split, subjoin-  
 “ ing likewise the best method of cure,  
 “ which I have hitherto discovered, which  
 “ is all I promise ; though, after long  
 “ consideration, I *cannot help thinking, that*  
 “ *such a remedy will be found out hereaf-*  
 “ *ter* ; and if ever this should happen, it  
 “ will *betray the ignorance of the theorists,*  
 “ and clearly shew how notoriously they  
 “ are mistaken in the knowledge of the  
 “ causes of diseases, and in the medi-  
 “ cines they give to cure them<sup>b</sup>. We  
 “ have

<sup>b</sup> So thought this great writer. Dr. DUNCAN, on the  
 contrary, in his preface to his *Observations* on Mercury,  
 useth the following language ;—“ Theory in medicine  
 “ is principally despised by two sets of practitioners, the  
 “ *ignorant* and the *lazy*. The last are unwilling, and  
 “ the first are unable to acquire the knowledge of it ;  
 “ and amidst all their boasted contempt, it will be found  
 “ that

“ have a plain proof of this in the *Peru-*  
 “ *vian* Bark ; the best specific in Inter-  
 “ mittents : for, how many ages had the  
 “ most acute physicians spent in search-

“ that they principally differ from others in implicitly  
 “ adopting whatever opinions they first receive.”——  
 But when we consider that, of the many theories which  
 have been spun out with such a loss of time, scarce one  
 hath been confirmed by success in practice, and most of  
 them been found to mislead the practitioner, we shall be  
 justified in pronouncing theory—mere theory—in medi-  
 cine at least, equally dangerous with quackery itself ;  
 and instead of advancing (which it ever boasts of) to  
 have retarded, more than any other thing, the improve-  
 ment of medical knowledge. Fond of his fancies, the  
 theorist, while he pursues these with an unremitting  
 eagerness, lazily practises in the common routine ; or,  
 if he venture his reasonings into practice, it is generally  
 with such a conceited confidence of their conclusiveness,  
 that Fact itself will hardly convince him of his error ;  
 nor can ill success, and even the dictates of humanity,  
 which are sacrificed to his vanity, prevail upon him to  
 alter his practice in the least. Is there not more hope  
 of the empiric, than of him ?—To the opinion of  
 Dr. DUNCAN, as expressed above, I shall take the liberty  
 to subjoin the sentiment of one, whose authority perhaps  
 may have more weight with him than SYDENHAM’S.  
 “ To oppose mere theory—to the result of a long  
 “ and painful experience—is a manner of writing more  
 “ fitted for disputations in a *school* of medicine, than  
 “ for the instruction of a practical physician.”



“ ing into the causes of Intermittents,  
 “ and adapted such methods of cure as  
 “ were best suited to their several theo-  
 “ ries? But how little honour those me-  
 “ thods did to the theories whereon they  
 “ were founded, appears from a late in-  
 “ stance in the practice of those, who,  
 “ ascribing the various kinds of Intermit-  
 “ tents to the redundancy of different hu-  
 “ mours in the body; ordinarily attempt-  
 “ ed the cure by altering and evacuating  
 “ these humours; which succeeded ill  
 “ with them, as is manifest from their  
 “ failure, but especially from the more  
 “ successful use of the Bark; by the help  
 “ of which, if given in a proper manner,  
 “ we commonly answer the end effec-  
 “ tually, without regarding those hu-  
 “ mours, diet, or regimen; unless the pa-  
 “ tient be unnecessarily *kept in bed*, whilst  
 “ he is taking it; in which case, however,  
 “ so efficacious is this medicine, that it  
 “ seldom fails curing the patient, not-  
 “ withstanding this inconvenience of in-  
 “ creasing the disease by the *warmth of*  
 “ *the bed*. In the mean time, till the  
 “ radical

“ *radical cure of the Gout be found out,*  
 “ (which all physicians, and myself in  
 “ particular, *ought to wish for*) I intreat  
 “ the reader to receive this little treatise  
 “ in a favourable manner; but if he  
 “ should not, I am so well acquainted  
 “ with the tempers of mankind, that it  
 “ will be no great disappointment to me;  
 “ and I know my duty so well, that I  
 “ shall not be discouraged thereat.”

Thus speaks the Oracle to modern ages!  
 brought over from ancient Greece to  
 Great Britain, where it now utters its pro-  
 phecies, and is consulted by all the civi-  
 lized nations in the world! and, inspired  
 by Nature, it will continue speaking to all  
 future ages!

This passage, long ago, deeply im-  
 pressed my mind. A specific in the Gout!  
 That *opprobrium medicorum* for such a  
 number of ages! Could the wise Syden-  
 ham entertain so visionary a hope? So it  
 was. And yet he was not the wild Vi-  
 sionary, or aerial Theorist. But perhaps  
 he might speak the wishes of his heart,  
 rather than the dictates of his under-  
 standing,

standing, as no man ever possessed more benevolence.

The real case seems to be this, and the passage itself shews, that he had in his eye the Bark, that great specific in Intermittents; which led him to hope, that some providential accident, or experiment, might, at one time or other, bring to light a specific for the Gout also. The disputes among physicians, in his day, had well nigh dismissed the Bark from the *Materia Medica*, with the ignominy of being pernicious, or useless at least; and doomed it to the unworthy fate of many other valuable medicines, which are now suffering hard durance in some neglected corner of the apothecary's or druggist's shop. He had just rescued it from this vile treatment, before he gave the finishing hand to his fine Treatise on the Gout, by exhibiting both its innocence, and its eminent medicinal qualities in his own practice, calling loudly upon the physicians in his time, to give it in a more free and liberal manner; for which he, and no one else, deserves the title of the father of  
this



this specific, except you will allow the honour of it to the man who barely peels the Bark, in the mountains of Peru. Had he not rescued it from this intended disgrace and oblivion, and taught its use, this *magnum Dei donum* had been lost for ever.

This odious effect, however, did follow, *viz.*—While rival, and selfish physicians were contending about the matter, Dr. Sydenham lost the honour of such a noble improvement ; and the Faculty the credit it would have done them, of coming from one of their own body. But the note below will gratify the curiosity<sup>c</sup> of some readers, and excite the indignation

<sup>c</sup> Dr. BAKER, in *his enquiry into the Epidemic Fever*, after observing, That by the common method of giving medicines, in trifling and insufficient doses, good ones are but too often brought into disrepute, the intention of the *physician* frustrated, and the patient's expectation disappointed—acquaints us, that *physicians* ran into this error formerly, with relation to the *bark*, through an overcautiousness ; and that *Sydenham* was the first that broke through this constraint, and ventured to give it in large doses. I have a letter of his, (he adds) in manuscript, now before me, wherein he says, “ I have had but few  
“ trials, but I am sure, that an ounce of *bark*, given be-  
“ tween the two fits, cures, which the *physicians* in Lon-  
“ don,

dignation of others, who may have any regard to the honour of the Faculty, and the general interest of mankind.

“ *don*, not being pleased to take notice of in my book,  
 “ or not *believing* me, have given an opportunity to a  
 “ fellow, that was but an *apothecary*’s man, to go away  
 “ with all the practice on *agues* ; by which he has got an  
 “ estate in two months, and brought great reproach on  
 “ the Faculty.” This letter was writ in October 1677, which falls in so exactly with the time of *Talbor*’s first appearance as a practitioner, (for we have an account of his being in France in 1679) that SYDENHAM must certainly allude to him ; and it appears from hence, that SYDENHAM was the person who struck out the method of giving an ounce of *bark* between the fits, instead of a dram or two, which was the usual dose before that time ; which method Sir ROBERT TALBOR has generally hitherto had the credit of, and for which he was knighted by King Charles the Second.

It were to be wished, for the benefit of mankind, that *physicians* would imitate SYDENHAM’s practice more than is usually done, in this particular ; since there is no possibility of discovering, except by this means alone, how far the powers of medicines extend.

GEOFFROY informs us, (without the least notice of our SYDENHAM) that Lewis XIV. that great patron of the useful, as well as the polite arts, purchased of Sir ROBERT TALBOR, or TALBOR, (knighted by Charles the Second) his secret manner of exhibiting the Bark ; and ordered large quantities to be bought up for the use of his hospitals. He adds farther, that he gave it not by scruples or drams, “ *sed ad uncias & libras ascendebat.*”

C A S E

## C A S E II.

**J**AMES HARVEY, a joiner, of Stoke Newington, aged twenty-seven, of an athletic constitution, and complexion rather pallid, was, on the 6th of January, 1773, seized with an acute pain in his right ankle, all on a sudden, as he sat by the fire side. He had before that enjoyed a good state of health for many years, and till the very moment his ankle became affected, thought himself, and was thought by every one else, in perfect health, and had gone through his usual labour on that day. — Before morning it shifted with great violence to the toes of the left leg, on which the swelling and pain of the right ankle considerably abated.

The 8th, he was attacked with a looseness, which continued two days, and reduced him very much.

The 10th, the pain flew to his left knee; and on the 12th, when he came to me,  
it



it remained there, but principally affected his left hand, which was extremely red and angry, and swelled to a considerable size, disabling him from any kind of work.

His pulse was low, weak, and rather quick, tongue white, urine turbid, high-coloured, depositing a considerable sediment. I directed for him the Tincture, which was taken six nights running. On the 8th, the pain, swelling, and redness of his hand were much abated, and he was in every respect so much relieved, that he spoke with seeming confidence of being able to return soon to his usual labour.

I then advised him to take his medicine twice a day, which he did for three days; and on the 21st, he thought himself perfectly well, and returned to his work, which he prosecuted without much impediment. Meeting with him by accident (February 6th) he informed me he had some slight returns of his complaint, which chiefly affected his right knee, and ankle; and was desirous of taking his medicine again. I advised rather to take an ounce of Bark leisurely, and a spoonful of Spirit.

Spirit. Vol. Arom. at bed-time; with which he complied, and has remained well ever since.

### C A S E III.

**M**R. M'ENNA, a publican, in the 50th year of his age, an athletic, well-made man, of a florid complexion, whose situation in life exposed him to live rather freely, had been subject to the Gout the last eight years. He had a severe attack in his feet, the severest he had ever experienced, on the 2d of May 1773. I saw him on the 18th; the medicine was given him that night, and the next morning. In the evening (though before unable to move from his seat) he met me with expressions full of gratitude and astonishment; saying, That he was so far from expecting a cure for the Gout, that he scarce believed he should have found even any relief.—He was requested to continue

tinue his medicine twice, or once a day, at least, for a little time, and then to follow it with the bark and the Cold-bath. But whether any part of the advice was complied with, I have had no opportunity of informing myself, but have lately been credibly informed he is in perfect health, and hath not had the least return of his disorder.

#### C A S E IV.

**W**ILLIAM GOODMAN, in Shore-ditch parish, aged 70; a remarkably stout, robust man, of a full habit, had been afflicted with the Gout above 25 years. He had had it (I take the account from his own mouth) in every part of his body, except his shoulders; in his head, stomach, toes, feet, knees, and hands. His feet and hands have swelled to so great a degree, as to be ready to burst; which disabled him from feeding, or turning himself in bed. He hath a thousand  
times



times wished for death ; and on many occasions his case hath been concluded as desperate, and his death near at hand.

Early in the spring 1773, I found him unable to stir from his seat, or to do the most ordinary action without assistance. He took the medicine twice a day, for four days, just in the way I have so often related; and to his own amazement, and that of his acquaintance, went abroad after his usual occupation in a week's time; and is now in as perfect health, and as free from any infirmity, as a man of seventy can be expected to be; nor has he had a single attack of his gouty complaint since he first took his medicine.

I could have wished to have followed it  
with the Bark, if not with the Cold-bath.  
But certain strong prejudices, that the dis-  
order was incurable, and that no mitiga-  
tion, even of his present pain, could be  
hoped for, as they had well nigh precluded  
any farther attempts to remove his com-  
plaints, so they determined him, as they  
have done many others, to use his own ex-  
Ipression,

pression, to *rest* while he was *well*. And perhaps, considering his time of life, he was in the right.

### C A S E V.

**R**ICHARD FOX, of Stoke Newington, a glazier and painter, aged thirty-three, of middle stature, and thin habit, had been afflicted with the Gout from nine years of age. His last attack was about the middle of May 1773, when a violent pain seized the great toe of his left foot, which in a little time ran through his foot and up his leg to his knee, and continued in that limb for several days and nights, so that he could get no rest. Afterwards it began to swell to a violent degree, and grew red and fiery, which gave him some ease, but left that limb perfectly useless. From thence it removed into his other foot and leg, attended with partly the same effect; so that he was now to-  
10
tally

tally disabled from walking. The pain, after some time, removed from his feet and legs into his hands and arms, and took the use of them away likewise.

In this situation he applied to his apothecary, who informed him his complaint was the Gout; and besides the medicines he thought it adviseable to give him, recommended Brandy and water, and Madeira, for his common drink; his directions were punctually complied with for some weeks. The patient, finding no benefit, and growing daily worse and worse, makes a warm appeal to his apothecary; informing him very plainly, that if he could procure him no farther relief, it was impossible he could live under so desperate a disorder; for the pain now attacked his stomach, nor could he lie down in bed without great difficulty, owing to a tightness, or catching in his breast, as he expressed himself. His legs also lost their former redness, and became remarkably swollen, shining, and dropfical. And the poor man was consigned over to patience and to flannel.



In these deplorable circumstances, he was brought to me, supported by his friends. A more deplorable case cannot fall to the lot of any man.

It seems unnecessary to add any thing farther, in relation to his case; except, that his pulse was quick, but weak and low,—thirst considerable,—general habit costively inclined, and, lastly, debilitating night-sweats had of late pursued him.

In cases complicated like this, it is oftentimes a difficulty, at what point to assail the enemy. We had<sup>d</sup> here the Gout evidently complicated with the Dropsy and Asthma. But a new difficulty arose. It was by no means improbable, that the deleterious quality of the lead (the patient having for many years wrought in paint) might, if not lay the foundation, at least aggravate part of the complaints.

But, supposing that to be the case, (and this was a circumstance highly deserving of

<sup>d</sup> Multis in hydropicum morbum podagra concessit; quandoque vero in asthma: horum vero successio inevitabilis est.

attention) it was an additional motive for giving the medicine, not knowing any thing of equal efficacy in paralytic Cases, evidently arising from this cause. The Tincture, therefore, was given him in full quantity, in the presence of his friends, which he was desired to take leisurely. This gave him great relief at his stomach before the morning; and it was continued through the whole of his illness, at proper intervals, in the quantity of two drams only, with a view of keeping the gouty matter at the extremities, and thus finally expelling it out of the habit. Cordial Confection and Volatiles, were directed at intervals, and his strength supported by generous diet. Blisters were applied; first, betwixt his shoulders, afterwards to his legs, and one on his left breast, the pain fixing there with great violence. By these means he grew better, though slowly; is now, and has been for many months, perfectly well.

Possibly, in the course of the cure, I might direct him a Lac. Ammon. mixture, with Oxymel and Volatiles; and,

towards the latter end of the disorder, a decoction of the Bark with Confection, as my common way is ; but whether I did or not, I cannot now tell, as in this Case I write from memory only,

## C A S E VI.

**W**ILLIAM CLARE, of Stoke Newington, aged 39, of a pallid complexion, thin, spare habit, and low stature, formerly dealt in paint ; and in the year 1766, was first attacked with a fit, which lay in his bowels. (I take this account from himself.) By the assistance which was immediately procured him, the pain, which first seized his bowels, was, in no long time, translated to his legs. In about a month after, he had another attack, and was then advised to quit grinding colours, and to follow the farming business.

In half a year's time he was attacked again in his ancles, and hath had it ever since twice a year ; sometimes in the spring, sometimes in the summer.

His



His last attack was about the middle of November 1773. On the 1st of December I was sent for, and found him confined to his bed, and unable to stir almost a single limb, and in intolerable anguish. His wrists and knees, as well as his ancles, now swelled exceedingly, which they had never done on any former occasion. An acute pain also affected his right groin. The swellings were not red and inflamed, but glossy and shining. His pulse was quick,—tongue white,—thirst considerable,—urine high-coloured, thick, and posited a lateritious sediment. He was, moreover, generally costive; but, on the day I saw him, had two stools; on which account, after taking away seven ounces of blood, which had exactly the same appearance as in the Pleurisy or acute Rheumatism, gutt. xii. Tinct. Thebaic. were added to the Guaiacum-draught that night, and repeated twice in the same way the next day. On the 3d he had two motions, and nothing was given him on that day. The fourth day, the draught was ordered to be taken every night only,

and without the opiate. But he found himself so well, it was taken but once. He walked abroad the next day, and has followed his usual occupation ever since, in perfect freedom from all his complaints.

I have, in the strongest manner, recommended to him the Cold-bath ; and can with the strictest truth affirm, that in the great variety of gouty and rheumatic Cases, which have come before me, I never saw the least inconvenience from it ; but, on the contrary, the greatest benefit. Nothing will so effectually prevent a relapse in either case, if they are to be considered as at all different. It is as much to be depended upon, as the Bark itself ; and greatly to be lamented, that a most groundless prejudice too frequently obstructs its use in the intervals of gouty complaints.

For some time past he hath complied with my advice, and with such manifest advantage, as induces him to make use of the Bath, even in very severe weather.

C A S E

## C A S E VII.

—— —, aged twenty, always active and temperate, had enjoyed a good state of health, till the latter end of the summer 1772, when she was suddenly seized with an acute pain in one foot, and the other was in a little time affected in the same way. Both swelled greatly, and were inflamed.

I saw her on the 4th day after the attack, when the family appeared almost as anxious to be satisfied about the nature of the disorder, whether it was Gout or Rheumatism, as about the event. After acquainting them, that the complaint was most certainly what would generally be accounted a true Gout, they explained to me the cause of their anxiety, *viz.* their fears lest the patient should become as great a sufferer by this cruel malady, as her parents and some of her relations had been.

This



This circumstance is barely mentioned, as rendering the Case less equivocal, if the Gout be indeed hereditary.

A repeated enumeration of particulars which seldom vary, and which as seldom convey much useful information, owing to our present imperfect knowledge of the nature or tendency of such appearances, may seem superfluous. I shall content myself therefore, in this instance, with saying, that on taking the Tincture twice a day, the patient recovered intirely in about a week or ten days, without experiencing even that debility in the parts, so common a consequence of this disorder. A great itching ensued, and the skin peeled off.

This Case was omitted on a former occasion, as it happened at some distance, and I had not time then to inquire into the state of my patient, whom I saw but once. While these sheets were at the press, I had the pleasure to receive certain information that the patient is now in perfect health, nor hath ever had the least return of her complaint.

The

The following Letter, and the Case accompanying it, were transmitted to me in so obliging a manner, by Mr. Wilfon, surgeon, in Alnwick, that I readily take this opportunity of laying them before the Public, though the Case doth indeed exceed, in point of time, the limits which I had at first prescribed myself.\*

S I R,

**U**PON reading your Book of Cases on the acute Rheumatism and the Gout, which lately fell into my hands, I was determined to make trial of your method the first opportunity.

The ensuing Case of a gentleman in the Gout, was so severe, and the effect of the

\* *Viz.* in the two former editions; for the additional Cases in the Gout extend some months farther.

medicine so suddenly beneficial, that I hope an account of it will not be unacceptable.

I am,

S I R,

Your most humble servant,

Alnwick,  
Aug. 24th, 1774.

JOHN WILSON.

C A S E VIII.

**A** Gentleman betwixt fifty and sixty years of age, applied for my advice. He had been afflicted with the Gout in his feet, and at times in his stomach, for several years. But from February last, had scarce been tolerably easy four days together, in his stomach. He was naturally a stout man, of a full habit, and his face was of a deep purple hue: but  
his



his constitution was much impaired by the Gout ; which hath rendered him so ill frequently, that he was not expected to live many hours, the pain being so severe in his stomach, attended with sickness, coldness and shiverings all over his body. He continued in this way from February last ; at times, indeed tolerably easy, but never without some pain in his stomach, and which frequently became violent.

He applied to me June 25th, 1774, when extremely ill in his stomach. He had been bled that day. I did not see the blood, but was informed it was fizy, and he was also costive.

I directed two draughts for him, with half an ounce Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in each, one to be taken that evening, the other the next morning. The first gave him full and immediate relief in his stomach, and caused a free sweat and discharge by urine. The second dose procured a loose stool or two ; and the next day his feet were pained. He hath told me since, that the first dose made him perfectly well. The medicine was continued twice  
a day

a day for three days only, when being free from pain in his feet also, he left it off.

On the 25th of July, his complaint in his stomach returned, for which he took two doses of his medicine, which had the desired effect immediately.

He is now and then sensible of a slight uneasiness in his stomach; but it is so very slight, that he takes no medicine for it. And that return of his complaint, for which he took two doses of the medicine, was owing to an error in diet.

END OF THE CASES,  
To the First and Second EDITION.

REFLECTIONS.

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## REFLECTIONS.

**T**HESE few Cases, which I have now laid before the world, are all that have occurred to me, within the limits of that time, to which I have confined myself. Had they been more, the reader should have had more. At present, it seems needless to trouble the public with any observations upon them. They have seen the operation of this particular medicine, and my general treatment, and are left to draw their own conclusions from the facts before them.

This one conclusion, at least, I should think, would be made by every one, whether a medical person, or otherwise; That, if this medicine should come into general use,



use, and produce a proportionable effect in this torturing disorder, the benefit to the public would be immense. And these Cases, few as they are, may serve to shew it's great efficacy.

Many are the observations, which I have made, upon the Gout, and the above Cases have also afforded me some. But it may be prudence in a medical, as well as in other writers, to suppress some ideas which may occur to him, till the number and variety of the Cases shall realize his hopes, and confirm his observations ; or give him occasion to change his sentiments ; as all depends upon fact and experience.

Only thus much we may observe, that the Gout, as well as the Rheumatism, hath its variations, and its critical seasons ; and that the *When* and the *How* this medicine is to be administered, is as carefully to be attended to in this, as in any other disorder ; without descending to a more minute detail upon the subject.

No prudent person will therefore conclude, that the physician's art is precluded  
by

by this medicine, or be so wanting to himself, as not to look out for relief from those, on whose medical skill and ability he can best rely for advice. On the contrary, scarce any disorder requires it more. For if it should be (as is most probable) Nature's intention, in every fit of the Gout, to depurate arthritic matter, what can be more dangerous, than rashly to *tamper* with it, and unseasonably obstruct her designs, by an undistinguishing use of the medicine, till farther experiments shall evince, whether it be seasonable at all times; and in every stage of this disorder?

This advice will be necessary, unless we could assure the world, that we had under our management a Specific for this disorder. But to this *ultimatum* of our wishes we have not yet arrived.

Will the Bark be called a Specific in Intermittents? Certainly it will. But will it always answer, and alone? Is it never necessary to precede it with Emetics, to accompany it with Bitters, or to follow it with the Cold-bath? All then that can be rationally meant, when this noble me-

dicine itself is called a Specific in Intermittents, is, that it is more infallible than any other remedy, and that on which we can place general confidence. But I repeat it, that I do not mean to run a comparifon betwixt the two medicines, or that we may place the fame confidence in the one, as in the other, in the difeafes to which they are refpectively applied; but rather to exprefs the contrary, in order to excite a proper degree of caution, in the ufe of the medicine, and a due attention to the various and multiform appearances this diforder fometimes puts on; without a careful attention to which, difcredit will fall upon the beft and moft valuable medicines.

I pretend not to know what the Gout is; whether it confifts in an affection of the folids, or fome indisposition of the fluids, or both. Nor is it material to tell the world, which of the various conjectural theories I am moft inclined to adopt. And—

As to the diftinction of this diforder into fanguineous, bilious, and pituitous, which hath long obtained, it is to be feared,



feared, we have not sufficient grounds, to make a discrimination of this nature ; and the only distinction needful to be attended to in practice, (the distinction is well worthy of attention) is, a Gout *with*, and — a Gout *without* a fever.

To search into the remote causes of this, as well as of many other disorders, will be but fruitless labour ; because these do not fall under the cognizance of our senses ; and it would be one proof of the physician's knowledge of the narrow limits of the human understanding, to content himself with observing the more immediate and visible symptoms of the disease ; its approach and attack, its progress, state, and declination, with its various indications, that he may learn to form the truest judgment, both as to the event of the disorder, and the best method of cure.

But suppose this knowledge were to be obtained, or that I had some new and favourite theory to give the public, respecting the remote or immediate causes of this

disorder, this however is no part of my present design.

I have proceeded upon a much humbler plan. Far from the audacious attempt of rising to the heights of theoretic fancy, I have confined myself in this treatise to the experiments which I have made on one particular medicine, with a view of enlarging its efficacy, and extending its use to arthritic complaints in general; in which idea are included both the acute and chronic Rheumatism, the Gout *with*, and *without* a fever.

Few things have so much hindered the progress of physic, as the insufficient doses, in which this and some other medicines are usually given. A deficiency in this respect had well nigh lost us the Bark. And it is much to be questioned, whether it hath not lost us the virtues we might have received from the Guaia-cum; which was formerly considered as a Specific in a different disorder. However, it was certainly used with great success formerly, and that it is now in less estimation,

estimation, may perhaps be owing to this reason only.

Much, it must be acknowledged, is left undone, and many experiments lie open to the attempts of others on this head. Mine have hitherto been chiefly confined to the Gum in its compound state with the Volatile. As I found them amicably joined together, I have not as yet been induced to divorce <sup>f</sup> them; but give it as a conjectural opinion, that, besides this compound medicine, much benefit might arise from the Gum in substance, the Balsam. Guaiac. Tinctures, and strong decoctions of the wood itself, at the conclusions of the fit in the acute Rheumatism or Gout, and more especially in

<sup>f</sup>“ When volatile alkalious salts, or spirits” (says Dr. HUXHAM) “ are taken in large quantities, and frequently, even by persons in health, they bring on feverish  
“ heats, hæmorrhages, spungy, bleeding gums, stinking  
“ breath, rank urine, &c.”—I have no doubt of a great variety of scorbutic Cases having occurred to the Dr. situated in a sea-port town; but from a long and liberal use of Volatiles, I am persuaded, that the Cases and appearances above specified, ought not to be ascribed to the use of “ Volatile alkalious Salts or Spirits.”



tedious and chronic cases, whether of the one or the other.

But whatever experiments of this kind may be made, by the industry and attention of others, it will be altogether fruitless to apply any of the different preparations of this drug, in small and insignificant doses; as if we were handling poison, or prescribing Night-shade, Hemlock, or some of the more dangerous preparations of Mercury. On the contrary, they ought to be given liberally, so as to impregnate the blood and juices with them, and create an alteration in the arthritic habit.

And for our encouragement in experiments of this sort, which are no ways hazardous, we may observe, that of all the vast and numerous tribes of medicines, which present themselves to us in the — *Materia Medica*, the Guaiacum seems to step forward from the crowd, with the most promising appearance, hath the fairest report, and the most creditable testimonials, if we have but the wisdom to do  
it

it justice in our future trials of its services.

And suffer me in passing, to drop this hint, that our wishes and inquiries, after something of still farther benefit to mankind in this disorder, are more likely to be crowned with success, by a much freer use of the many salutary medicines, whether of the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom, which are in our possession, joined to the assistance which may be derived from chemical preparations, than from any new accession to the *Materia Medica*.

It is a common foible of human nature, to seek for that abroad, which may be found at home; and in the pursuit of shadowy expectations, from new discoveries, to lose advantages we are already possessed of. And ill shall we be prepared for any new discoveries, if, by spiritless and insignificant trials, the medicinal virtues of those already in our hands continue to escape our notice.

In vain have been the labours of a Linnæus, the travels of a Banks and Solander;

in vain shall we ransack the vegetable system in new worlds, since, whatever valuable discoveries may be brought to us, they must inevitably share the same unhappy fate with former ones; for whilst we continue in this habit, their hidden virtues will escape us, for want of due and sufficient trials; serving only to crowd our shops, distract practitioners, or, at most, to enrich with exotics our gardens and hot-houses. Our curiosity may be thus gratified, even to luxury; but medicine receive not the smallest advantage from the acquisition.

I cannot forbear, in this place, to use the words of an excellent writer, who, enumerating the obstacles to the improvement of physic, mentions giving *small* doses as one;—"for while physicians" (says he) "have been over cautious in their  
 " prescriptions, they have fallen into the  
 " inconvenience of doing the patient no  
 " service; and, to confess the truth, I  
 " suspect, they more generally err this  
 " way at present, while they order  
 " drams of plants for an infusion, where  
 " ounces



“ ounces would be more proper. On  
 “ the other hand, mountebanks, and  
 “ quacks, men of an intrepid mind, and  
 “ invincible impudence, oftentimes make  
 “ a cure, when the physician of probity  
 “ fails.”—

This passage caught my attention many years ago, and hath occasionally recurred to my mind, during my experiments on this and some other medicines, when I was not dealing with edged tools, or prescribing substances of a dangerous or deleterious quality ; not with a view of finding out some specious nostrum, to be industriously concealed from public inspection, but to give the greater efficacy to my own prescriptions, in the fair and regular course of practice. And I now present the above sentiment to others, who may perhaps judge it as worthy of their attention, as many other things to be met with in medical writers.

Though I dare not presume to have made any very near approaches to a Specific,

cific<sup>s</sup>, or to dignify the medicine with any such high title, yet, surely, the world will take kindly the having expressed good wishes to mankind; thinking it my duty, whenever there appears the least opening towards so desirable an object, to pursue it, till some insurmountable obstacle in the road, or extreme danger, convince me that such labour is in vain, and warn me to proceed no farther; and if attempts to make so great a discovery should be charged solely to ambition; yet if these have proceeded upon medical principles, and been

§ I have not dared to bestow upon the medicine a higher appellation, than that of an *aptitude*, and *accommodation*; words borrowed from another writer, on a different occasion—"Medicamentum materiæ expurgandæ accommodatum."—Though an ingenious author is not shy, in declaring his belief,—"That the notion which  
 " has, and still does prevail among some physicians,  
 " that the doctrine of Specifics is groundless, and took  
 " its rise merely from ignorance in natural philosophy,  
 " is one obstacle to the advancement of physic."

He adds farther—"I cannot help thinking, that the  
 " want of true and genuine philosophy ought rather to  
 " be imputed to those who deny, than to those who  
 " maintain the doctrine of Specifics; and that we might  
 " as well undertake to open all locks with one key, as  
 " purge all humours with one medicine."

so cautiously conducted, that not the least harm hath arisen from them, in one single instance in my practice, they cannot justly be entitled to a severer censure, than what candour will say with regret, and envy with pleasure ;

—— *Magnis tamen excidit ausis.*

For Dr. Sydenham says, such a discovery is what he himself did, and all physicians ought to wish for.

There is some merit and humanity in keeping up the hopes of mankind, and not hastily consigning them over to patience and to flannel ; for, as to the first, the proverb writes it, a Medicine proper only for a Mad Dog. And as to the other, its supposed utility in the Gout is very questionable, from this circumstance—that persons who get abroad into the air the soonest mend the fastest <sup>h</sup>.

<sup>h</sup> CELSUS says, “ The parts affected in the Gout should  
“ be exposed freely to the cold—*Objiciendumque frigori.*”

Doctor DOVER also adds, “ Keeping the part warm is  
“ wrong ; because it is *proprium caloris attrahere*, and  
“ does, beyond doubt, attract gouty matter to the  
“ parts.”

*Nil*



*Nil desperandum,*

is a much better prescription, as it will prompt us to future inquiries. And who knows what the separate, or united labours of many sensible practitioners, when roused to the proper exertion of themselves, may produce? Or, if their united art should fail, who can tell what assistance we may receive, if the *Religio Medici* will permit us to take into the account the το θειον τι, which mingleth itself with all human affairs? or that Providence, which, by its imperceptible and mysterious workings, hath already brought to light discoveries of the greatest importance, in the prevention or cure of disorders, by means which we call accidental; and which, to mortify the vanity of human science, have been revealed to us by the instrumentality of the ignorant and the illiterate<sup>i</sup>?

But

<sup>i</sup> What wonders hath not the old Grecian woman done by inoculation, with the point of her needle, and our SUTTON with the point of his lancet?—Do we not also owe the first knowledge of the Bark to the illiterate Indian,

But if the wisdom of Providence should not think proper to favour us with a discovery, and the art and inquiries of the numerous able practitioners should still fail us, in the investigation of a real Specific in the Gout, yet the support of our hope with the renewal of our endeavours, upon the plan, on which I have hitherto proceeded, and which I have recommended to others, must be followed with some considerable advantage. If the full object of our wishes is not to be attained, yet, stimulated in this inquiry by hope, it may lead us on to such discoveries and improvements, as may, however, greatly reduce the sufferings of mankind from this severe disorder.

If we can abbreviate the fits, ease the pain, assist Nature in a more perfect depuration, and elimination of arthritic matter; and, along with this, strengthen the habit

Indian, who taught its use to the Spaniard?—Were not the virtues of the Guaiacum likewise revealed to the Europeans by an Indian servant?—and was it not held in such estimation, as to be sold, some time after, for seven gold crowns a pound?

for

for the future ; or, if by any prophylactic method, we can prevent the frequency of the fits, and perform all this with intire safety, and without the danger of inducing any other complaint ; every humane person would congratulate mankind upon such advantages, though far short of a complete and radical cure.

For myself, were I conscious that I could reduce a tenth, twentieth, or even a much less proportion of human misery, arising from this disorder, my ambition, if not my wishes, would be fully satisfied ; and, sensible of the inestimable benefit mankind must receive from such a diminution of misery, I should experience that pleasure from the reflection, which is preferable to the accumulation of the greatest wealth or private emolument.

But, to put an end to these few desultory reflections, the whole of which, though not strictly medical, are yet not foreign to this one good purpose, of exciting others to pursue a similar method of improving the efficacy of medicines, in this and other disorders, by giving an edge to the instruments



struments we are to act with ; hoping to contribute more by this means to the benefit of mankind, than by any labours of our own.

If I have appeared too sanguine in my hope of a radical cure in the Gout<sup>k</sup>, or shewn too partial an attachment to the authority of the great Sydenham in such expectation, I trust the candour of the reader will excuse a predilection for this great author, when he reads the following quotations from Dr. Boerhaave, that celebrated physician of modern times,—“who  
 “ frequently perused him, and always  
 “ with greater eagerness ;” asserting, that  
 “ no physician, since the venerable Hip-  
 “ pocrates, has written of diseases with  
 “ so much accuracy:” and, “lamenting  
 “ that few, if any, of the modern writers  
 “ in physic, have attained to the perfec-

<sup>k</sup> What may encourage the reader, as well as myself, with hope, is, this one strong circumstance, that these Cases, both in the Gout and the acute Rheumatism, though few, are not selected, or picked out of numbers, but are all taken as they rise in the course of my practice, and contain the *whole* from a *limited time*, viz. from March 1772, to December 1773.

“ tion of the ancients ;” “ I can only,”  
 adds he, “ mention one great man, Thomas  
 “ Sydenham, the ornament of England,  
 “ and the Apollo of the art, whom I ne-  
 “ ver consider, but my mind presents me  
 “ with the genuine picture of an Hippo-  
 “ cratic physician, and to whom physic  
 “ is so much indebted, that all I can say  
 “ will fall short of his merit.”

The End of the REFLECTIONS,  
 to the former Editions.

ADDITIONAL

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ADDITIONAL  
CASES  
IN THE  
GOUT,  
To SEPTEMBER 1774.

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CASE I.

**M**R. THOMAS WRIGHT, of Hackney, aged 42, a tall strong-built person, of a fair complexion, sober and regular in his way of life, had formerly, at different times, suffered severely, by what was then called the Rheumatism, and other acute diseases,<sup>a</sup> and on that account lost great quantities of blood.

<sup>a</sup> “Generally there precede many inflammatory diseases, such as pleurifies, quincies, &c. says Dr. THOMPSON, before the Gout becomes perfect and regular.—Again, the Gout makes its approaches as other diseases of the inflammatory kind do, and is itself no other than a fever of that kind.”

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In the beginning of November 1773, he was seized with the Gout, at least his friends gave the disorder that appellation,<sup>b</sup> and he was the more inclined to

<sup>b</sup> Sir JOHN PRINGLE says, “The antients seem to have imperfectly distinguished the Gout from the distemper now called the Rheumatism, by giving the name of *arthritis* to the affection of all the joints, whether the pains are from a rheumatic inflammation, or a gouty humour.”—But do not the antients appear to have done wisely in this respect? And, had the moderns made no other distinction, might not a more successful treatment of the Gout, ere this, have been obtained?—For here one might reasonably ask, Is there not a Gouty, as well as a Rheumatic Inflammation?—And how doth the humour of the one, under *that* circumstance, or indeed under *any* circumstance, differ from the humour of the other?—Until this distinction is better ascertained by the moderns, will it not tend to mislead practitioners? For, agreeably to a just and common observation, which Dr. PRINGLE himself adopts, “Names are apt to impose upon the understanding.”—And, to reverse the application of the Doctor’s words, “Might it not as well be imagined,” (if indeed it be allowable to give scope to our imaginations on this subject) that the moderns, now that they have got this new distinction, “do as often confound, and consequently often unskilfully manage,” the Gout and Rheumatism, as the antients did “the different kinds of the Arthritis?”—“A distinction,” says Dr. PRINGLE, in another

to believe it such, as some of his family had been grievously afflicted by it.

For about three months from that time he had scarce passed a day, as he informed me, free from pain, either in his legs, feet, arms, or hands, though without much swellings. I was not sent for till the Gout had attacked his stomach. He was then bled, having a strong, labouring, but not a quick pulse, and immediately took six drams of the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. which procured him speedy relief.

On its seizing his bowels not many

another part of his work, “ has commonly been made  
 “ between the Pleurisy and Peripneumony, which I like-  
 “ wise followed in the former editions. But having  
 “ since read the dissections and remarks of those cele-  
 “ brated authors, de Haller, and Morgagni, relating to  
 “ this subject, I am convinced, that we ought to confi-  
 “ der these two distempers as *one*.”—This is ingenuous in  
 the Dr.; and possibly, on re-considering the matter at-  
 tentively, the same ingenuousness may dispose him to  
 think more favourably of the antients, with regard to  
 their notion of the Arthritis.

L 2

weeks

weeks after, (when I was again sent for) the medicine was followed with a like and almost instantaneous good effect. For I left him at perfect ease before I quitted the house, strongly recommending to him however, as the best preservative from a more severe visitation, to make use of the bark and the cold-bath. But the family entertaining some prejudices against both, my advice was at that time disregarded; for which he suffered severely soon after: for on the 24th February 1774, he was seized with what himself, his friends, and all who saw him, called a fair fit of the Gout, attended with a high degree of fever which continued for near a month; — his pulse generally quick, full, and strong. Thirty-six ounces of blood were taken from him on different occasions, during his illness, which constantly appeared highly inflammatory and pleuritic—no Case more so that I ever saw. His urine was turbid, high-coloured, and deposited a considerable



able quantity of brickduſt ſediment, till towards the decline of the fever, when it became much more transparent, and of a ſtraw colour. His hands firſt, his feet afterwards, and his knees laſt of all, were full of anguiſh, prodigiouſly turgid, and red as crimſon. During all this time, the pains and ſwellings, as they abated in, or deſerted one part, flew to, and affected ſome other.

Had things remained in this ſituation, I ſhould have thought myſelf tolerably ſecure : but the diſorder on many occaſions manifeſted an obvious tendency to fall upon the more noble parts, and became truly alarming; affecting his breath<sup>c</sup> ſometimes,  
at

<sup>c</sup> “ It hath been diſputed among phyſicians,” ſaith Dr. MEAD, “ whether or not, a vein may be opened “ when the pain in the joints is extremely ſevere. Now, “ to ſettle this point, we ought never to forget, that “ this pain is highly neceſſary for tumefying the part, “ and therefore ought to be borne with patience. This, “ however, notwithstanding, (ſeeing it is certain, that “ exceſſive heat is an obſtacle to the natural ſecretions “ from the blood which are neceſſary for health) if the “ fever run very high, and eſpecially if it be attended “ with difficulty of breathing, blood-letting will not

at others his stomach or bowels.—Thrice it flew to his hip, occasioning the most insupportable torture which wrung from him, though remarkable for his patience, expressions of the deepest anguish. He was generally costive, on which account the Tincture was given him to the quantity of four, on some occasions to six drams, and as it answered well in that respect, so it had the happiest effect also in diverting the complaint to the extremities, whenever it seemed to point, (and that it frequently did) inwards upon the bowels, and relieved him greatly from those four belchings, and that indigestion of which he complained for some months previous to as well as during his confinement; and all this without any augmentation, nay with a sensible diminution of his febrile symptoms, exceeding any consequent upon the Bleedings. Debilitating sweats

“ only lessen the pain, but likewise happily promote  
 “ the issue of the humour.—But I have very frequently  
 “ observed physicians to be too timorous with respect to  
 “ this evacuation, from a notion, that it would prevent  
 “ the Gouty humour from being thrown upon the  
 “ joints, &c.”

broke

broke out now and then in the more early, as well as in the more advanced stages of the disease.

Besides the Tincture, saline draughts, with Sal. Diuret. Cordial Confec. Confect. Damoc. and other appropriate cordials, and anodynes, were given, as circumstances seemed to require, and whey was directed to be drank plentifully.

I constrained the patient to keep out of bed as much as possible, and to throw aside his flannels.

Two blisters were applied to the ankles. On the removal of one of which some blackness appeared, (a circumstance I had never observed before in similar cases) but this was soon dispersed by a common spirituous fomentation. A plaister also, of Empl. Cephal. and Episp. was once applied to his hip, which quickly removed the pain, by a different kind of pain (so the patient expressed himself) equally severe, but which presently ceased.



It ought not to be omitted, that for some months before, as well as during his confinement, spasms or twitchings frequently affected one or both sides of his face.

After the total cessation of the fever, and the abatement of the pain and swellings, the use of the cold-bath was pressed on the patient in the strongest manner; with which it was difficult to obtain a compliance.

The intire confidence, however, which the patient placed in his physician, induced him at last to follow the advice with great chearfulness and resolution. He accordingly went first into a cold-bath, and afterwards bathed in the sea, by which means, joined to the exercise of riding, and the use of a light infusion of the bark and bitters, he soon intirely recovered his former health and strength; and now, in his own words, eats, drinks, and sleeps, as well as he ever did in his life, and hath not, for these two  
years

years past, had a return of his former complaints.

Should this continue to be the case, (and I have the most confidential persuasion that it will, by regularly pursuing the course recommended) it ought to encourage our hopes, for the good of mankind, that Medicine may learn in time (what she is as yet said to be ignorant of) not only to give relief in, but to cure the Gout.

## C A S E II.

**A** Gentlewoman, at a considerable distance from town, desired my advice the latter end of February 1774. In consequence of the representation of her case, in a letter from her husband, I directed an antimonial vomit, and the Guaiacum Tincture.

The

The apothecary, in a letter the week after, represented the Case as paralytic, and thus described the symptoms.—  
 “ An involuntary shaking of the head <sup>d</sup>—  
 “ unable to continue it in a natural  
 “ state--the chin sometimes hanging near-  
 “ ly to the right shoulder—then in a  
 “ dancing manner falling back to the  
 “ proper form—then as much to the  
 “ left—thus the head is variously distort-  
 “ ed—the speech not affected—the back  
 “ part of the occiput dull and painful—  
 “ a rigidity in the neck—in general cold  
 “ —pulse low and regular—urine turbid,  
 “ but small in quantity—catamenia re-  
 “ gular—breathing easy—sleep interrupt-  
 “ ed—tongue white, not dry—a slight  
 “ numbness along the arm—countenance  
 “ pale—eyes lively—memory perfect.”

<sup>d</sup> “ While the Gouty matter,” saith Dr. QUINCY,  
 “ hangs about the nerves and fibres in general, it oc-  
 “ casions errattick pains, twitchings, cramps, convul-  
 “ sions, and all those disorders commonly included un-  
 “ der that general term, the vapours and hypocondria-  
 “ cal affections; and, in short, all those symptomatical  
 “ Gouts, which are often mistaken for other distempers,  
 “ and which Dr. MUSGRAVE has so accurately described  
 “ in his learned treatise on that subject.”

On



On this I directed blisters, at due intervals, to the head, betwixt the shoulders, and behind the ears; and internally Pil. Gummos. Guaiacum and Valerian Tincture: recommending farther the liberal use of mustard and horseradish, and also the cold-bath: but having no opportunity of seeing the patient, was obliged to refer the application, or use of the whole, or any part, to the discretion of the apothecary, and friends about her.

Her husband, a Clergyman, hath since informed me, that she grew much better on the use of the vomit and the Guaiacum Tincture for a few days; but being eager to obtain a speedy cure, the blisters were applied, which, he thinks, by weakening and reducing her too much, retarded her recovery. However, by the use of the internal medicines, she was surprizingly recovered. But, on catching cold, and exerting her strength too much, and too soon, as apprehended, she relapsed, which induced her to come to town, and put herself under my care.

Her

Her disorder increased so fast upon her, by the fatigue of the journey, or some other cause, that when she arrived, I scarce ever saw a more deplorable object—formerly plump and florid, now emaciated and pallid—involuntary motions all over her body, particularly in her head, neck, and hands, which rendered her unable to carry her meat to her mouth.

I gave her immediately Guaiacum and Valerian Tinctures liberally, with chalybeats and the bark ; and in a few days after her arrival she went into the cold-bath ; and by following this course for a month or five weeks, she returned home greatly recovered. I recommended to her the occasional use of her medicines, particularly the Guaiacum Tincture ; and on the beginning of June following, her husband writes to me thus : “ My wife  
 “ is now much better than she has ever  
 “ been yet, hath recovered her appetite,  
 “ feels herself stronger, and walks in her  
 “ garden and about her family affairs  
 “ with her usual spirit and chearfulness,  
 “ so that we are now in great hopes of  
 “ a per-

“ a perfect recovery.” — On the 28th November 1775, I had an opportunity of seeing my patient, and the pleasure to find her in full health.

Now, may we not look upon the Case above as the consequence of a neglected or ill-treated Gout?—Will not the following account, which I received from her husband in September 1774, warrant such a conjecture?

“ December 1769, my wife strained  
 “ her ankle by a fall, which confined  
 “ her for a month or five weeks, and  
 “ was treated in a manner as strains  
 “ usually are ; and at length she recover-  
 “ ed the use and strength of her ankle.  
 “ In the autumn following ; viz. 1770,  
 “ the same part was affected again, with-  
 “ out her being sensible of having done  
 “ any thing to occasion it. She com-  
 “ plained of shooting pains, the ankle  
 “ swelled, and looked red and shining.  
 “ She, thinking it to be the consequence  
 “ of the strain, of her own accord, rub-  
 “ bed it with oppodeldoc, wrapped it  
 “ in flannels, &c.”



“ She was in like manner affected in  
 “ the autumn 1771, for several days,  
 “ but doth not remember whether she  
 “ used any application, but that of flan-  
 “ nel. In October 1772, she was seized  
 “ with a violent disorder in her breast,  
 “ which was called and treated by the  
 “ apothecary as an inflammation of the  
 “ lungs, by bleeding, blistering, and  
 “ powders of some kind or other.”

“ At a distance from home, July 1773,  
 “ she was affected in a manner that she  
 “ had not experienced before—a total loss  
 “ of strength.—This was succeeded by a  
 “ numbness in the back part of her head.  
 “ However, she got better without ap-  
 “ plying to medicines. September fol-  
 “ lowing, she had a slight attack of the  
 “ same disorder; and hath had more or  
 “ less of that numbness in her head, at  
 “ different times, since she was first at-  
 “ tacked with it.”

“ January last, 1774, when on a visit  
 “ at ——— she was seized with such a  
 “ general illness—numbness in her head  
 “ —coldness

“ —coldness at stomach —coldness and  
 “ stiffness in her neck, &c. as obliged  
 “ her to leave the company. I got some  
 “ ounces of Sal. Volatile, and gave it  
 “ her pretty plentifully, which might  
 “ perhaps be a means of preventing the  
 “ increase of her disorder till the latter  
 “ end of February, when it appeared  
 “ with violent symptoms indeed, and I  
 “ applied to you for her.”

Whether or no these dreadful symptoms were the effects of a repressed Gout, let the medical reader judge for himself.

\* “ This circumstance,” saith Dr. MEAD, “ which I  
 “ have scarcely ever remarked in any other distemper,  
 “ is here to be observed, that when the Gout hath seized  
 “ the stomach, this organ becomes so cold and torpid,  
 “ that wine seems no stronger than water; and it re-  
 “ quires, and easily bears, the hottest liquors, such as  
 “ spirits drawn from wine. Wherefore not only gene-  
 “ rous wines are to be given in pretty large quantities,  
 “ but also vinous spirits rendered more efficacious by  
 “ the infusion of snake-root, ginger, or garlick. And  
 “ if these should not prove powerful enough, it will be  
 “ proper to order the powders of snake-root, ginger, or  
 “ long-pepper, mixed with the cordial confection, to be  
 “ taken by the mouth.”

C A S E

## C A S E III.

**M**RS. BURTON, of Tottenham, in the 30th year of her age, formerly of a ruddy and healthy, now of a more pale and sickly complexion, was invaded by the Gout, with fever, the beginning of January 1774, which ran through almost every part of her body. It first began in her arms, descended from thence to her knees and feet, which grew red, swelled, and painful. Her hands also became affected in the same manner, and continued so till the termination of her illness.

February 16th, I was called to her assistance, and found her greatly exhausted by the pain, and want of rest, but most of all by her night-sweats. Her tongue was white, but moist;—urine thick and turbid;—pulse quick, but not full or strong. She was then, and had been all along costive.



Six ounces of blood were taken from her, which was, as usual, fizy. This gave her almost instantaneous relief, in-  
 somuch that it disposed her to wish  
 to be bled every day. A draught, with  
 two drams of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. was di-  
 rected to be taken every, or every other  
 night, and a decoction of the Bark, with  
 Conf. Cardiac.

18th the bleeding was repeated, and  
 the medicines continued, when I left  
 her considerably better, and had no  
 opportunity of seeing her till the 26th.  
 In that interval six ounces more blood  
 were drawn by the advice of the apothecary,  
 which had its usual buffy appearance;  
 but it was the patient's own  
 remark, that the first bleeding afforded  
 the most sensible relief. Except a cor-  
 dial mixture, and the addition of a little  
 Tinct. Thebaic. to the night draught,  
 nothing farther of moment was pre-  
 scribed.

27th I left her to all appearance  
 well, and she hath continued so ever  
 since, excepting a slight stiffness in her

M arms ;

arms ; and that she fails, in one particular, of her usual regularity. From this latter circumstance, however, she finds no great inconvenience.

To prevent a relapse (for she had a similar attack, but of longer continuance, about twelve years ago, and was on that occasion, as she informs me, bled with the lancet and leeches, by the direction of a physician of reputed eminence, not less than sixteen times) the Cold-bath was recommended, and she hath derived from it the intended benefit.

#### C A S E IV.

**M**R. FRALEY, junior, of Friday-Street, about thirty years of age, of a thin habit, and when in health of a florid countenance and active disposition, had some years ago a fit of the Gout, which was so slight, that the remembrance

membrance of it had almost escaped him.

In the spring 1774, his friends grew very apprehensive for him, supposing him to be hastening fast into a consumption. His appetite failed him, and he grew sick at the sight of food. Towards morning, he broke out into sweats. He had a slight cough and pain in his head. The left side of his face swelled and became red and painful, which he supposed to be the effect of a cold, or a rheumatic pain, as he called it.

When I first visited him, I directed nothing more than a mild emetic<sup>f</sup>, which had the best effect: for the same night the Gout seized his great toe, (which brought to his remembrance the former attack) and gave him so much pain, as deprived him of all rest. The

“<sup>f</sup> A gentle vomit, such as the Indian root is, is not only  
 “ proper, but even absolutely necessary, because vomits  
 “ do the most effectually of any thing throw every dis-  
 “ order out of the habit, and so are the most probable  
 “ means to expel the Gout on the extremities.”

Dr. CHEYNE.



pain of his face, however, immediately abated, and the swelling and redness disappeared also. Though the pain in his toe was as exquisite for the time, no fever ensued.

The Tincture was directed in such quantities only as were sufficient to keep his body open, and the matter in that part where nature, evidently assisted by the action of the vomit<sup>s</sup>, had happily lodged it. The Bark and Cordial Confection were also prescribed.

In less than ten days, all his complaints ceased. His strength, spirits, and appetite returned. The night-sweats, by which he was so much exhausted, left him intirely. To the pain in his great toe, which extended itself sometimes through the foot, succeeded a great itching, and the cuticle peeled off.

These complaints removed, he betook

<sup>s</sup> A gentleman in Catherine Court, Tower Hill, for a few days slightly feverish with sickness, was very lately, on my giving him the Ipecac. with Antimonial wine, seized the same night with the Gout in his foot.

himself

himself to his horse and the Cold-bath, as advised; hath had an interval of two years; and, if he persist in the use of them, will, in all probability, prevent much future misery.

## C A S E V.

**P**ETER STRINGER, of Hackney, a gardener, fifty-eight years of age, of a strong make and sanguineous habit, had often, of late years, been troubled with Rheumatic complaints<sup>n</sup>, affecting chiefly his loins and hips, which he generally removed by the use of Gum

<sup>n</sup> The following are Dr. QUINCY's words — “ Why  
 “ Rheumatisms likewise, and hysterical affections, are  
 “ frequently fore-runners of the Gout in the female sex  
 “ [and hypocondriacal affections in men] is, because those  
 “ disorders are from the same peccant matter as the Gout;  
 “ which is farther confirmed by their intire removal af-  
 “ ter a fit of the Gout, in manner as most other nervous  
 “ distempers are.”

Guaiacum, steeped<sup>i</sup> in brandy, of which he took, what he called, a pap-spoonful twice a day in barley water.

March 5th, 1774, being at work, and exposed to the wet, the Gout seized his left-hand, which instantly became, and continued intolerably painful, so as to deprive him of rest for four days and nights. His hand became swelled, highly inflamed, and so stiff, that he could not move a single joint of his fingers.

His old medicine, which he had used liberally, failing him on this occa-

<sup>i</sup> Dr. CLERK, in his *Observations* on the arthritis anomala, speaking of one of his patients who was confined with a regular Gout every winter, from one to four months, saith, “ he tried several remedies, with a view  
“ to prevent or lessen the fits ; but the one, which he  
“ found of most use, was a Tincture of Gum Guaiac. in  
“ brandy, twenty drops of which, taken evening and  
“ morning when the fit was upon him, used to put it  
“ away in three or four days. As he was told, that this  
“ method of cure might be attended with danger, on  
“ account of its sudden operation, without producing  
“ any remarkable evacuation, he only used it in some  
“ fits ; besides, he never took it in the intervals.”——  
Was this patient rightly informed ?—Or could *twenty drops* of the Tincture produce the effects here ascribed to it ?

sion,



sion, he came to me on the 29th, in the state above described, muffled up with flannels, with a weak but regular pulse. He was regular also in his habit of body, and in his manner of living; but his occupation subjected him to heats and colds.

After advising him to dismiss his flannels, which was done with some reluctance, half an ounce of the Tincture was given him four successive days, which generally produced two or three motions, and was attended with apparent advantage, insomuch that, April 2d, he was able to pursue his usual labour, which he hath done ever since, (now two years) without the least inconvenience, and without using any other means.

## C A S E VI.

**E**—— T—— of Kingſland, aged fifty, of middle ſtature, a ſtout well-made perſon, of a florid complexion, was ſeized with the Gout about the 26th April 1774.—It had continued upon him three weeks before he applied to me, and confined him to his bed, where he lay in great pain, unable to turn or aſſiſt himſelf.

When I ſaw him, the diſorder had fixed itſelf chiefly in his hips and loins. He was free indeed from fever, but, having then a ſtrong, full pulſe, he was bled, with no apparent relief, however, from that evacuation, though his blood was thick and fizy. Half an ounce of the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. was given him every morning for a week, with as little benefit. After that, he took a full ounce at once daily, for near the ſame time,  
which,

which, without occasioning any ruffle, intirely removed the pain from his hips and loins into his left thigh and knee.

The quantity of the medicine was after that reduced one half. The pain abated ; in four days almost intirely ceased ; and bathing in a neighbouring rivulet completed the cure.

## C A S E VII.

**A** Gentleman, of Hackney, aged fifty-nine, formerly stout and robust, now vastly emaciated by repeated attacks of the Gout for above twenty years, notwithstanding a life of great regularity and temperance, never had it in his extremities but once, and then it fell into one of his feet, but did not continue there above six or seven days. His stomach, head, and lungs, were



were generally and chiefly affected, and a confirmed asthma had taken place for some years. But he always observed, and it was visible to every beholder, that his breath was most high and laborious when a fit of the Gout was upon him, and when his pain was most intense.

He was become universally yellow—white of his eyes remarkably so, urine high-coloured and turbid—pulse low and tremulous. He was generally costive. Hence the piles, with which he was formerly afflicted, were supposed to proceed. They were of the bleeding kind, and discharged at times profusely. Finding no benefit from a long attendance of regular physicians and surgeons, he applied to a noted Adventurer in physic, who, for a single moidore, recommended to him to inject now and then two ounces of burnt brandy, which was complied with, and effectually stopped the effusion. Whether any of the patient's present complaints might be occasioned by so sudden a suppression of a natural, and oftentimes salutary

lutary evacuation, is left to the determination of those who know the danger of diverting such critical discharges.

My advice was requested 24th April 1774, when he had a severe fit upon him, and thought himself, and was thought by all his friends in the utmost danger. Half an ounce of the Tincture was given him that night, which he retained without the least inconvenience, and which gave him perfect ease at his stomach in less than two hours, producing afterwards a few gentle motions.

The next day he quitted his bed, and was in every respect as well as usual; and nothing farther was directed for him, except a cordial draught. He found himself so much relieved by the cessation of the pain, and the freedom of his breathing, that he thought more medicine (to which he is at all times averse) unnecessary. Nor, his case being thus circumstanced and complicated, did I urge it upon him, but left him with this advice, carefully to avoid catching cold,

cold, and to trust to his horse, of which he made daily use.

He continued in a tolerable state of health, free at least from any violent attack of the Gout, till August 10th, 1774, when I was again sent for, the pain at his stomach being most excruciating, and the difficulty of breathing greater than ever. In other respects he was much the same, persuaded, that if the pain at his stomach could be removed, he should find immediate relief in his breathing.

I directed for him that night the Tincture, which caused him to reach a little, proved gently aperient, eased entirely the pain at his stomach, and his breath also became less affected.

The medicine was repeated two days afterwards with the like effect, but without occasioning sickness. Saline draughts well warmed, with Conf. Cardiac. and Damoc. with Gum Guaiacum and Sulphur, occasionally were directed and continued to the 18th, when I left him happily



happily restored to his former state of health.

In a case so complicated, a *radical* cure is not to be hoped for.

### C A S E VIII.

**M**ISS FENWICK, of Watling-Street, rather of a sanguineous habit, chearful temper, active disposition, and remarkably abstemious, had the Gout in her stomach to a great degree the latter end of June 1774, which was totally removed by taking, of her own accord, a full ounce of the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in the space of an hour.

24th August it attacked her again, first in the ankle, occasioning a stiffness, as if strained; but afterwards flying to her stomach, betwixt three and four in the afternoon, she took, at twice, one ounce of the Tincture, and, desirous to drive it away with all speed, half an ounce

ounce more at bed-time, and rested well after it.

I was consulted on the 26th, when the pain at her stomach was considerable, but not so intense by far as it had been: though even then it frequently pierced through her stomach to her back.

Having sufficient reason to suspect that the pain at her stomach was protracted by worms of the ascarides kind, I advised her to desist, for the present, from the Tincture, and to take something different that night, in which regard would be had to both her complaints. Accordingly a Bolus, consisting of a scruple of Gum Guaiac. with a like quantity of Spices, and gr. vi of Merc. Dul. was directed that night; and twice a day afterwards, without the Merc. Dul.

A great number of ascarides was voided after the first Bolus; but neither that nor the succeeding ones moving the pain intirely, recourse was again had to the Tincture; after taking three doses  
 10 of

of which, I left her at perfect ease ; not omitting, however, as I rarely do, to recommend the Bark and the Cold-bath, where there appears no sufficient reason to the contrary.

Some years ago, while this lady was at Bath, the Gout seized her hand, which was red, swelled, and painful, for a considerable length of time.—This circumstance renders the Case unequivocal.

## C A S E IX.

**M**ARY QUINCY, resident with the lady last mentioned, twenty-three years of age, a stout strong-made person, of a dark complexion, enured to hard labour from her infancy, was, about the middle of August 1774, racked with a violent pain in her head ; to remedy which, half an ounce of the Tincture was given, by the advice of one in the family,



family, in the morning, and the same quantity at night, which operated (as the case was represented to me) by sweating only: but, the pain continuing, blisters were applied the next day, by the direction of the same person, behind the ears, which were supposed to give some relief. The Tincture was still continued, till the Gout shewed itself manifestly, by the pain, swelling, and redness, of the right foot.

This happened on the 30th, when my attendance was desired.

I recommended, seeing no reason to the contrary, a perseverance in the use of the Tincture, which agreed perfectly well with the patient; acting by perspiration, but not sensibly by stool.

The next day the other foot became affected in the same manner, and both continued in that state till 4th September, when, the pain and swellings abating, she walked about with tolerable ease; and, on the 6th, I left her quite well.

It is needless to repeat what was farther

ther recommended, with a view of strengthening the habit in general, and preventing a return of the complaint; and altogether as needless to repeat how little attention is paid to such advice, when persons are once at ease and free from pain.

### C A S E X.

**M**R. SIBONNE, of Low-layton, aged seventy, naturally of an athletic habit, but now greatly reduced by many severe attacks of the Gout, desired my advice in the spring 1774. He was thought by all his acquaintance, and so he appeared to me, near his end. All expected from me was to give him, if possible, a little temporary relief from a most agonizing pain now fixed in his hip, which confined him to one posture, and deprived him of rest. He was universally yellow, without fever, but costive—pulse low and sluggish.

N

A few

A few ounces of blood were directed to be taken away by cupping, a large blister to be applied immediately afterwards to the part, and the Tincture (seeing nothing to forbid it) was also directed.

Luckily, however, before I quitted the room, I was informed of a most material circumstance which, till that moment, had been concealed from me; *viz.* that the patient had for many years been troubled with a rupture, which added greatly to his present affliction. On this the Tincture, lest it should prove too irritating, was omitted; and gentle laxatives, with cordials, supplied its place. The Cupping was omitted also, no one being at hand to perform the operation: the blister, however, and the laxative, answered very well, and procured great relief. But in no long time, as was easy to foresee, he died.

Now this Case would not have been related, had it not fallen within the limited time which I had prescribed to myself; and for this farther reason, to  
show



show how dangerous it may be to conceal any material circumstance from the physician, as the following Case will yet farther evince.

### C A S E XI.

**M**R. P—— of Shoreditch, aged sixty, crippled and emaciated with the Gout, with which he had been afflicted above twenty years, requested me to visit him on the 29th of July. Many of his fingers were distorted, and almost every joint of his hands affected either with chalk-stones or callosities, some fixed, others moveable—one hand was swelled, inflamed, and painful—no fever attendant—habit costive—urine pallid, depositing a light whitish sediment. He had long given up (indeed it was not to be expected) all hope of a perfect recovery. The circumstance most distressing to him, far more so than any pain

he experienced, and for which he now anxiously solicited relief, was a certain inquietude and restlessness during the night, which quite exhausted both his strength and spirits. On this account he had applied to a physician of reputed eminence, who directed for him Castor-draughts, from which he thought he had received some benefit, but which now, through long use, were become inefficient.

Two drams of the Guaiacum Tincture were directed twice a day, and a mild anodyne now and then, for about a week. This gave him considerable ease; but it was necessary to conceal from him what was given, as he ascribed his principal complaint to the daily use of an Opiate, recommended by the late Dr. Warner.

I now directed the four drams, taken at twice, to be given at once, frequent doses being disagreeable to the patient. The next night he passed in the greatest misery, from an incessant urgency to make water, (a complaint with which he  
had

had been frequently troubled<sup>k</sup>) and pain in the lower part of the abdomen.

It now appeared, (not the least intimation was given of it before) that the patient had for many years been afflicted with a rupture, and that the part was more or less affected on every attack of the Gout. Every medical person will easily conceive how I was shocked at the information. Happily for me the patient attributed all his sufferings to a fresh attack of the Gout, while I attributed them to the irritation of the medicine. However, twenty-five drops of Tinct. Thebaic. intirely allayed the ruffle, and procured him perfect ease.

After expostulating with my patient on his indiscretion in concealing such a circumstance, I advised him to consult a

<sup>k</sup> “ It is farther to be noted,” saith Dr. SYDENHAM, “ that most Gouty persons, after the disease has been “ of long standing, become subject to the *stone in the* “ *kidnies*, and are generally seized with *nephritic pains*, “ either at the height, or more frequently at the de- “ clenfion of the cardinal fit, which are very severe, and “ weaken the patient considerably, who was but too “ much debilitated and exhausted by the preceding “ distemper.”



surgeon without farther delay, and to have the part carefully examined. My advice was disregarded, but happily not the least bad consequence ensued.

## C A S E XII.

**R**ICHARD BUNDY, of Homerton, thirty-eight years of age, of a tall, thin, sanguineous habit, and active disposition, was first afflicted with the Gout in the year 1766. It was then principally confined to his great toe, which was several times invaded by it that year; nor hath he ever since been free from it any one year in a greater or lesser degree, except in the year 1769, when he had an inflammatory fever, in which he was several times bled. The attacks of the two last years have increased remarkably, both in severity and duration.

I was

I was not consulted in any of his fits, except the last, which happened 11th June 1774. It began in the joint of one of his fingers of the right hand, which swelled and inflamed, and where was formed a hard moveable substance.

From that joint it passed to several other joints of the same hand, to the wrist, elbow, and shoulder, then to the hip, and across his loins to the knee, ankle, and foot of the same side. In a few days the left side was affected in the same way, so that he could scarce be said to have a single joint free from pain. The hand first affected, was the last in recovering. A smart fever accompanied his other complaints for three weeks. He was generally regular in stools, and his urine, more especially while his fever continued, was, according to his own account, thick and muddy.

I did not see him till July 17th, when the feverish symptoms had greatly abated, and the swellings remained only in his

right hand and feet. His pulse, however, was quick, but low.

With his flesh he had lost his strength and his appetite also, and was become so feeble, and his pain and stiffness so universal, that he could scarce support, and was unable to dress or undress himself.

The Tincture was given sometimes once, sometimes twice a day, from which he received great benefit, and in about a week was so far recovered, that he walked a mile to the next river to bathe. On the 5th day after which he was able to dress himself also, and his appetite and strength returned so quickly, that after nine or ten bathings, he thought himself perfectly well ; and hath followed his usual occupation ever since. Damp and foggy mornings, and the distance of the water from his house (and these things only) discouraged him from persevering in the use of the Bath.



## C A S E XIII.

**M**RS. WILTON, of London Field, Hackney, had been for some time in a declining state of health, from a variety of nervous and flatulent complaints, accompanied also with a pain at her stomach, at times extremely intense, and for which she found no relief from whatever had hitherto been prescribed. Loss of appetite, strength, and spirits ensued. Her complaint was by some called Gouty, by others Rheumatic, by others again (making a compound of it) a Rheumatic-Gout. Be it what it would, finding her faint and low, free from fever, but costive, July 22, I directed the Guaiacum Tincture, of which she took six full doses. The pain ceased—her appetite returned, and, in short, she received such immediate and universal benefit,

nefit<sup>1</sup>, as determined her to keep the prescription by her. Suffering a slighter attack of her disorder more lately, she had recourse to the Tincture a second time, and received present relief.

<sup>1</sup> Sir JOHN PRINGLE saith, “ Lime-water neither retards fermentation, like the lixivial salts, nor hastens it, nor makes it so violent as the *testacca* do ; and being at the same time somewhat astringent, becomes a good medicine for weak stomachs, with a *predominating acid*; as several have experienced, who were subject to the Gout, Gravel, and other chronic diseases, seemingly depending on that cause.”—Should this be the case, will it not in some measure account for the immediate relief received in this and some other Cases, on giving the Tinct. Guaiac. Volat. ?—And farther, if the Gout in the stomach be dependent on a *predominating acid*, ought we not to suppose it to be of the same nature wherever found, whether in the head, the hand, the foot, toe, &c.?

## C A S E XIV.

**M**RS. FREEMAN, of Stoke-Newington, temperate, and of a chearful, active disposition, was formerly subject to what were called Rheumatic complaints, but most of all, to such as were deemed bilious. An attack of the last kind was on the 3d of May 1774. It was sudden and severe—pain at her stomach intolerable—reachings incessant. The aid of the apothecary failing, a physician of reputed eminence was called in, who directed, at different times, three strong emetics, and various active purgatives, to remove an obstinate costiveness, with strong cordials, anodynes, and fomentations to the part. The art of the physician, after repeated trials, proving equally unavailing, the patient had recourse to random experiment, and to whatever the regards of her friends suggested. All to no purpose. Every attempt to relieve the pain, seemed but to

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increase



increase it. Balm and mint tea was her chief support ; and the agony of the pain depriving her of rest for many days and nights, excessive debilitating sweats issued. Her strength and spirits being thus exhausted, she gave way to melancholy and dejection ; and her only hope of relief was in death.

At length, however, after she had abandoned all medicine, the pain quitted her stomach, and fled first to her breast, and afterwards to her head, where it remained with so great violence, as suffered her to take no rest. Blood frequently gushed from her nose, but without affording any ease. Every means of relief, hitherto tried, failing, a sound tooth was drawn, by the advice of a medical person, on the supposition that the pain was occasioned by a compression upon the nerve ; the loss of which, as it did not procure even a momentary respite, the patient has only to regret.

After suffering for two months inexpressible anguish, my advice was requested July 5th. And apprehending the  
Case

Cafe to be neither bilious, nor aguish, (in which lights it had hitherto been considered, and treated accordingly) but a gouty affection, I directed the Guaia-cum Tincture in full quantity twice a day, which agreed perfectly well with the patient, causing a grateful thrill (as she expressed it) through her whole body, and tending also to keep it open; to effect which, had hitherto proved a matter of great difficulty. In a few days the pain in her head abating, it was succeeded by a pain in the ankle<sup>m</sup>, unattended, however, either with swelling or redness. This ceasing also, I left her on the 11th, to all appearance, perfectly well, recommending to her, as the best preventative, to continue the Bark, and to make use of the Cold-bath, with which she readily complied, and hath not had the least return of her complaint.

<sup>m</sup> Miss Lloyd, of the same place, was very lately affected with the Gout in her head, succeeded by a pain in her ankle, of both which she was in a little time freed by the same means.

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On the 18th, indeed, a rash broke out, which continued for two or three days, but which did not appear to be at all connected with her former complaints.

I shall but just add here, her pulse was always languid—urine generally pale, with a white downy sediment <sup>n</sup>.

## C A S E XV.

**M**RS. PARKS, of Lambeth, of a corpulent habit, pallid complexion and lax fibre, whose parents

<sup>n</sup> The reader will observe, that I have been attentive to the appearances in the urine in this, as well as in some other Cases ; not indeed from a persuasion, that much useful knowledge doth *at present* result from such appearances, but yet judging it not improper barely to record the matter of fact. And I have been the rather induced to do this, as some persons have of late laid great stress on this point, particularly Dr. CLERK, who gives the following as a diagnostic of the Gout, *viz.*  
 “ white ropy filaments floating in the urine, which,  
 “ when taken out, are pellucid, and when dried, turn  
 “ to a kind of Calx.”—But is this observation well-founded or not ?

and



and near relations had been martyrs to the Gout, desired my advice in the same disorder 1st September 1774.

I found her feverish—pulse quick, but low—tongue white—water thick and muddy—great thirst—restlessness—impaired appetite—faintings, with spontaneous sweats and transient stitches in her left side, without however impeding her breath—head-ach so violent at times, that she durst not raise it from the pillow. Her habit was costive, and the Fluor Albus had afflicted her for many years.

The disorder had harrassed her above a fortnight before I saw her, having first seized her head with great violence, then her neck and shoulders. Half an ounce of the Tincture had been given twice a day for three days, on the recommendation of a Lady, into whose hands my pamphlet had fallen, and who had herself received benefit by the use of the medicine. But the left hand here-upon swelling, and the two last fingers thereof becoming red and angry, she began to be alarmed, and durst no longer  
trust

trust to her own judgment. Her fears soon communicated themselves to the family, on which I was sent for.

Having no room to doubt that the swelling was the effect of the medicine, I recommended the farther use of the Tincture. The next day the pain, redness, and swelling abated, but the other hand swelled greatly, grew tense and fiery, and remained in that state four days, when, the swelling subsiding, it became, like the other, flaccid, and of a more livid hue. The Tincture all this while sat easy upon the patient's stomach, produced daily two or three easy motions, did not perceptibly augment the spontaneous sweats, deposited the arthritic matter properly at the extremities, dispelled the feverish heats, and left matters, in less than a week, in such a state as gave the fairest opportunity of throwing in the Bark, premising an emetic, (having twice discharged from her stomach a great quantity of white viscid matter) which had the happiest effect. I wished to have

closed

closed the whole with the Cold-bath; but another person (not a medical one indeed) intervening, and recommending the Warm-bath, it is probable, in this divided state, the patient would make use of neither.

While I was attending on this Case, the following remarkable incident occurred in the family.

Mr. PARKS had for a considerable time been affected with a violent pain in his head, which his apothecary pronounced to be aguish, and consequently recommended the Bark, which he took in great quantity, and with great perseverance, but without any good effect. In this extremity, a Lady, who had had frequent opportunities of seeing the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. given by me in a numerous family, out of her great humanity advised him to take a full ounce of it within the hour. This was about ten in the morning. The advice was readily complied with; and he soon found relief. At noon half an ounce more was given, and with so great success,



as encouraged them to hope and attempt a speedy and effectual cure. Accordingly, the pain (though with considerable abatement) still remaining, between nine and ten in the evening, an ounce more was given within the hour, which intirely removed his pain. On this he immediately called for his supper, eat heartily, went to sleep, and awoke next morning fit for business, which he hath prosecuted ever since, without any interruption from his former pain.

Thus, in less than twelve hours, two ounces and an half of the Tincture were taken, not only with ease and safety, but with the greatest benefit, though administered by one who made not the least pretensions to medical knowledge

That some such event would take place from my method of practice being made public, I easily foresaw; and that more hazardous experiments would be tried in the use of the medicine, than the caution of the regular physician durst venture to make. It gives me pleasure, however, to find, upon the review of a long practice,

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tice, as well as from the Case before us, that the dose may be considerably augmented without the least danger; and that Cases may possibly happen, wherein it may, with advantage, be administered in even a still more liberal manner.

The above Case, from the representation given me of it, I judged to be that of an unformed Gout, and should certainly have acted as the Lady did, though very probably not with the same fortitude.

## C O N C L U S I O N.

Thus have I laid before the Public, sufficient proof of the safety and efficacy of one particular Medicine of the Dispensatory of our College; and have the satisfaction to find, that I have, in some measure, rescued it from that state of

neglect into which it was fast sinking, by the hasty reflections, and ill-grounded prejudices of some persons of no inconsiderable repute °.

I shall only add, that if in the narration of the Cases <sup>p</sup>, I may appear to some to have been unnecessarily prolix, by too minute a detail of common appearances, let the following words of the *Medical Transactions* of our College be my apology, — “ Almost all Facts teach something.”

° ——— “ This passion, this blindness,” saith a certain writer, “ for the honour of great names, and not judging for ourselves, is preposterous, and none of the least causes of that darkness and obscurity, which at this day attends medicinal inquiries.”

<sup>p</sup> The reader is once more desired to observe, that these Cases in the Gout are not selected or picked out of numbers, but are all taken as they rise, in the course of my practice; and contain the *whole*, from a *limited* time; *viz.* from March 1772 to September 1774.

T H E E N D.